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Premiering At The Atlanta Black Pride Film Festival

LABOR DAY WEEKEND

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Clikque MAGAZINE

EDITORIAL

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF DWIGHT POWELL

Pride In The City

What is it to have and or show pride? Is it a sense of one's dignity or values or self-respect. Is it the pleasure or satisfaction taken in an achievement, possession, or association.

Or is to have pride an arrogant, unreasonable conceit of one's own superiority in talent, beauty, wealth, rank, etc., which manifests itself in lofty airs, distance, reserve, and often in contempt of others.

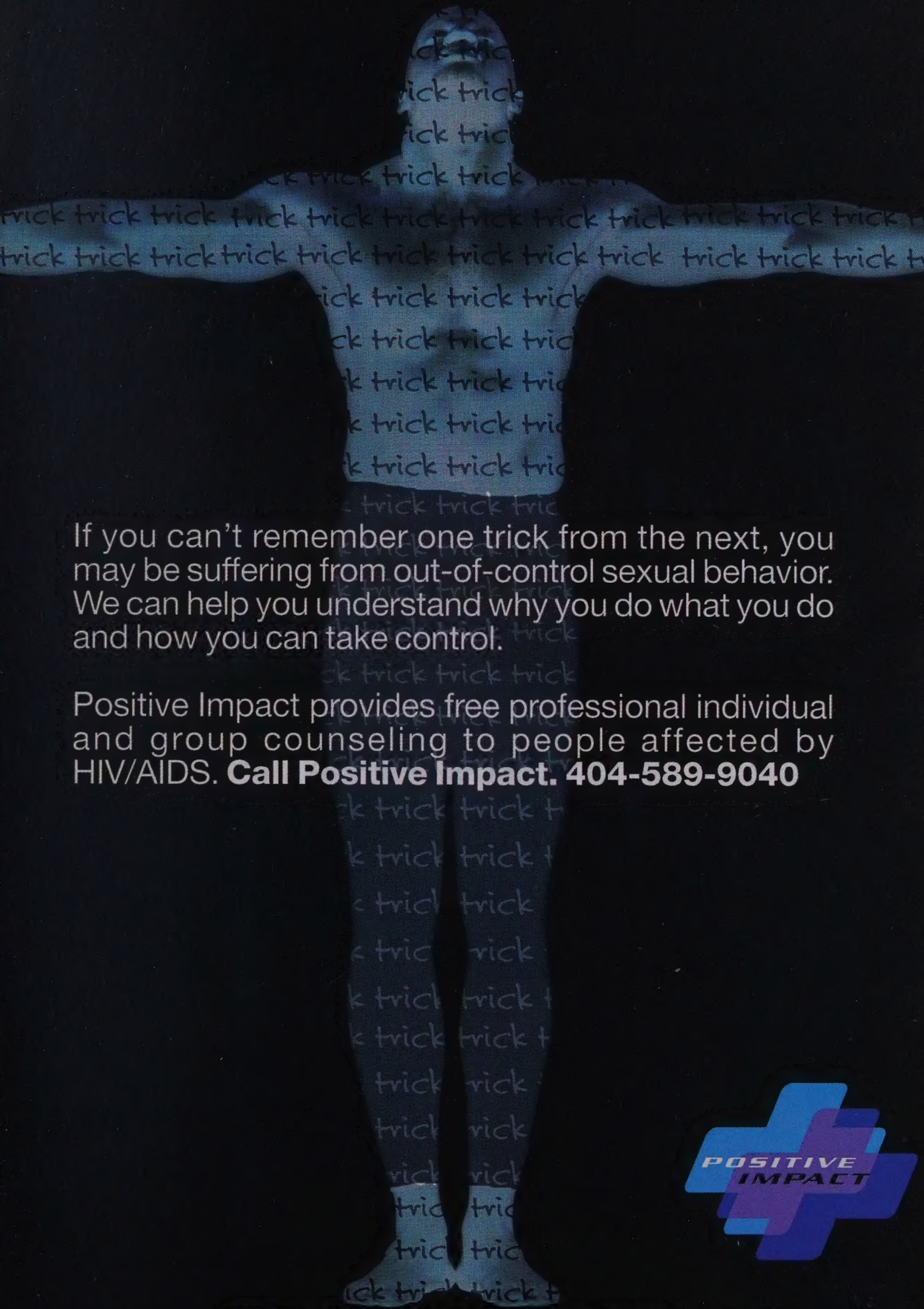
Over the next few months, when attending either POCC's Pride In The City,New York, ITLA's Atlanta Black Pride, or Dallas Black Pride, ask yourself, why am I attending these pride events? What is it to have black gay pride? What does this mean? Am I expressing my pride when I finally grab a rainbow colored flag, march down main street, and show the world that I am not afraid that they can see me... letting them know that I am gay?

Pride to me, is a comforting reality that it's ok, ok to be who we are, BLACK GAY MALES. Events such as DC Black Pride afforded me that comfort zone. The workshops and film festivals. The literature and poetry readings. The relaxing and entertaining picnics, that provided opportunities for me to mingle and meet hundreds of people with similar concerns and desires as myself. People from various professions such as doctors, lawyers, gender illusionists, politicians, teachers, waiters, maids.... EVERYONE; seeking a place that allows them to be free, to be themselves. For those of us that find it difficult to express this kind of pride in our everyday surroundings, pride events such as those in New York, Atlanta and DC, can be a welcoming release of built up emotions and frustration.

While the night-time parties and festivities are indeed, must experience events, let this year be the year that you'll become a participant, in the not-as-glamorous daytime activities. It is there that you will probably discover that pride is more than parties and boys, but rather an "EVENT" showcasing us, our lives, and our experiences.

Have lots of fun, learn more about yourself and be safe.

Dwight Powell



If you can't remember one trick from the next, you may be suffering from out-of-control sexual behavior. We can help you understand why you do what you do and how you can take control.

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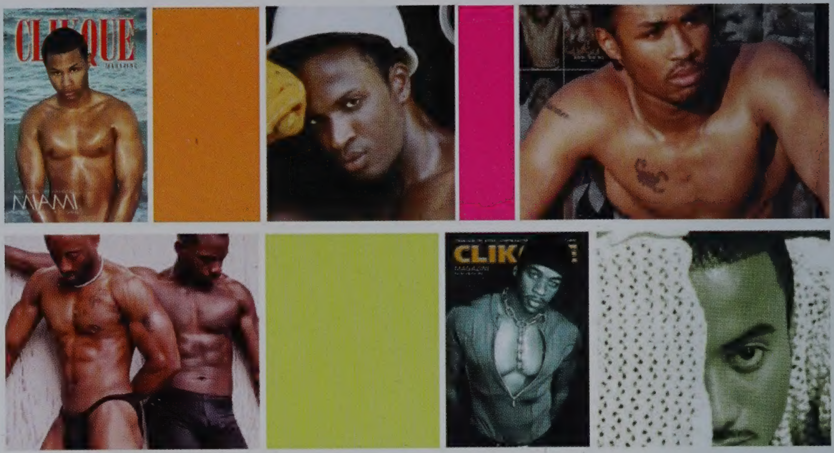
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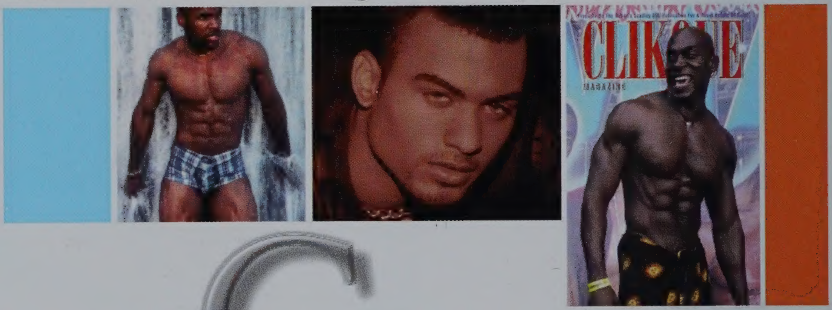
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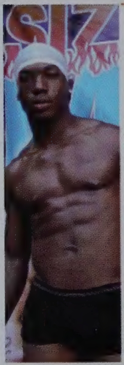

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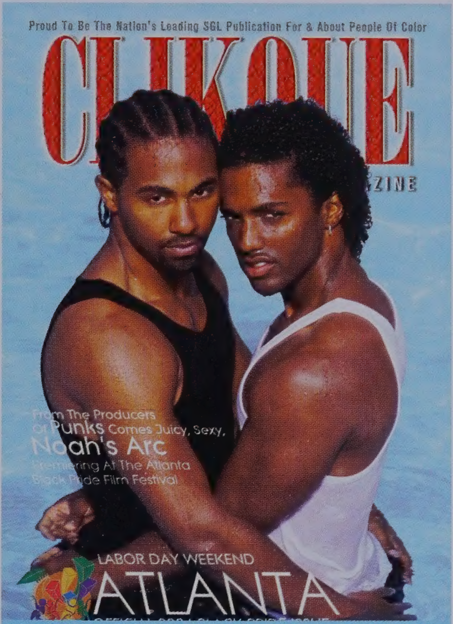

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Here at Clikque, we do more than just publish, this top notch magazine. We also sponsor some kick-ass events. Look for these events in your area.

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NEW YORK CITY/BROOKLYN

FRIDAY AUG 5- MONDAY 9TH, POCC Pride In The City.

Look for our booth at NYC Black Pride sponsored by People of Color On Crisis. **$Free.** visit www.pocc.org for more details

MIAMI, FLORIDA

SATURDAY AUGUST 14TH, MAGAZINE RELEASE PARTY @ CLUB BOI

Clikque Magazine release party. Call 954-455-8781 and find out how you can get on the VIP list

HOUSTON, TEXAS

FRIDAY AUG 20TH, CALIENTE

Clikque Magazine returns homes for a kick-ass Hip-Hop party at 1415 Bar & Grill (Formally Sonomas). Dwight Powell from Sizzle 2004 and DJ Gavin T from Club Boi will be bringing the Heat from Miami. November cover model will be chosen from the crowd. Lots of prizes and surprises. Let's see if Beyonce shows up. **$12.00** **See Ad On Page 11**

SEPTEMBER '04

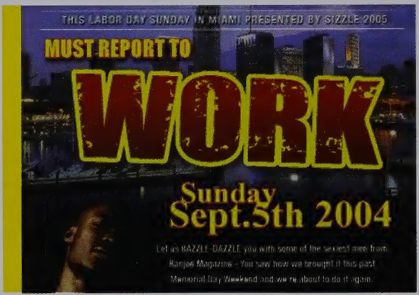
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 3RD, ATL BLACK PRIDE

Clikque Magazine sponsors VIP Reception For ITLA VIPs, Sponsors and invited guests. **$FREE** **See Ad On Page 32**

MIAMI, FLORIDA

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 5TH, WORK @ SOHO LOUNGE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MUST REPORT TO
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Sunday Sept.5th 2004
Let us RAZZLE-DAZZLE you with some of the sexiest men from Banjee Magazine - You saw how we brought it this past Memorial Day Weekend and we're about to do it again.

This Labor Day Weekend, we want you to report to WORK for the Largest Hip-Hop Party in Miami. You will be dazzled by some of the sexiest men from Banjee Magazine. You saw how they did it at Sizzle2004 - Come and experience it again.Dress to sweat. **$15.00** All Night. **See Ad On Page 80**

OCTOBER '04

DALLAS, TEXAS

FRIDAY OCTOBER 1ST - SUNDAY OCTOBER 3RD DALLAS BLACK PRIDE

Clikque Magazine sponsors Pool Party & various events **$CALL** **See Ad On Page 78**

NOVEMBER '04

MIAMI, FLORIDA

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 26TH, THE WHITE PARTY

For the first time The White Party will be giving a HIP-HOP party during it's week of events and has invited Clikque Magazine and Sizzle 2005 to Host this huge event. This event benefits Care Resource. **$15.00** in advance $20 at the door **See Ad On Page 15 or visit www.sizzle2005.com**

THE WHITE PARTY 2004 20 years

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Friday AUGUST 20th, 2004

1415 Bar & Grille (Formerly Sonoma's)
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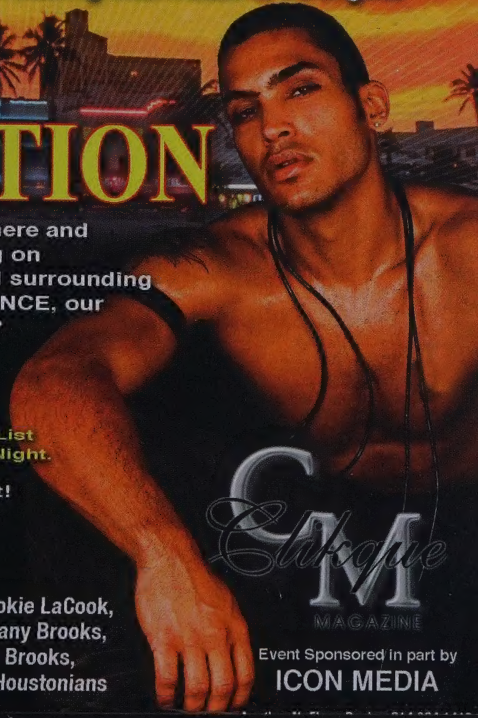

Get Ready For The RESURRECTION

It's been almost 3 years since we've been here and now we're about to let all hell loose. Calling on Houston, Dallas, Austin, Port Arthur and all surrounding areas, come out and select from the AUDIENCE, our November 2004 Cover Boy.. Will it be YOU?

Music by Miami's Best, DJ GAVIN T. Club Boi Resident DJ. He'll Show You How We Did It At Sizzle 2004.

Free Prizes & Surprises All Night-Too Many To List On This Flyer! Sex On The BEach Specials All Night.

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Clikque Magazine

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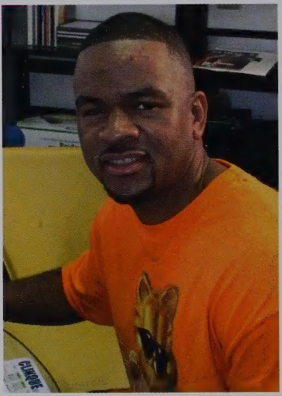
JUDGE NOT

Written By Lewis Nicholson



As I sit here pondering what to write about I ask myself, what people will think of me and the article I am writing. My first thought was who will think I don't practice what I preach or who will be offended by my writing, and lastly, how will what I am writing affect my readership? Then it occurred to me, that all my thoughts are on how will I be judged. As a result, I am writing on the issue of judging. How judgmental am I? Is life about being judged and how important it is to live up to the judge's expectations?

How judgmental am I? At first thought I would have to say that I am the least judgmental person I know but that does not make me non-judgmental. Very rarely do I consider what people do with their lives and draw any conclusions about that person. I look for the good in people. I don't care if you are promiscuous, if you are homeless, if you have no job and don't want to work, nor do I care if you take tina seven days a week.

Does that make me non-judgmental? No, it does not. What it makes me is tolerant. Truth be told, I am obsessed with body images and while I am no Tyson Beckford, I find myself thinking, she is fat, she needs to lose weight or she would be so pretty a few pounds lighter. Does any of this matter? No, it does not. A person's weight is their prerogative. My obesity does not interfere with your life so why does it bother you so much?

Let's talk about life for a minute and ponder the question. Is all of life just one big competition being judged every step of the way? Actually, life is one big stage and we all take turns as contestants and then as judges. My one and a half year-old nephew is the Gap kid. Well, he is the black Gap kid. He won the spot from thousands seen. He looks at his picture in the store and says, " Stefan, me" with a big grin on his face. His mother though she was paid handsomely, for his cute unknowing image all over the Gap store started off his pageant days at a very early age. Though he is not yet scarred by the competition, because he is too young to understand, it is undeniable that the judging of young Stefan has begun.

Have you ever noticed that the smart kids in grade school are the prettier kids? How ironic, as the less beautiful kids catch up and surpass those later in life. The reason for this is that teachers focus on pretty little Pagan and handsome Harry more so, than they do on obese Owen or thick lipped Tamara.

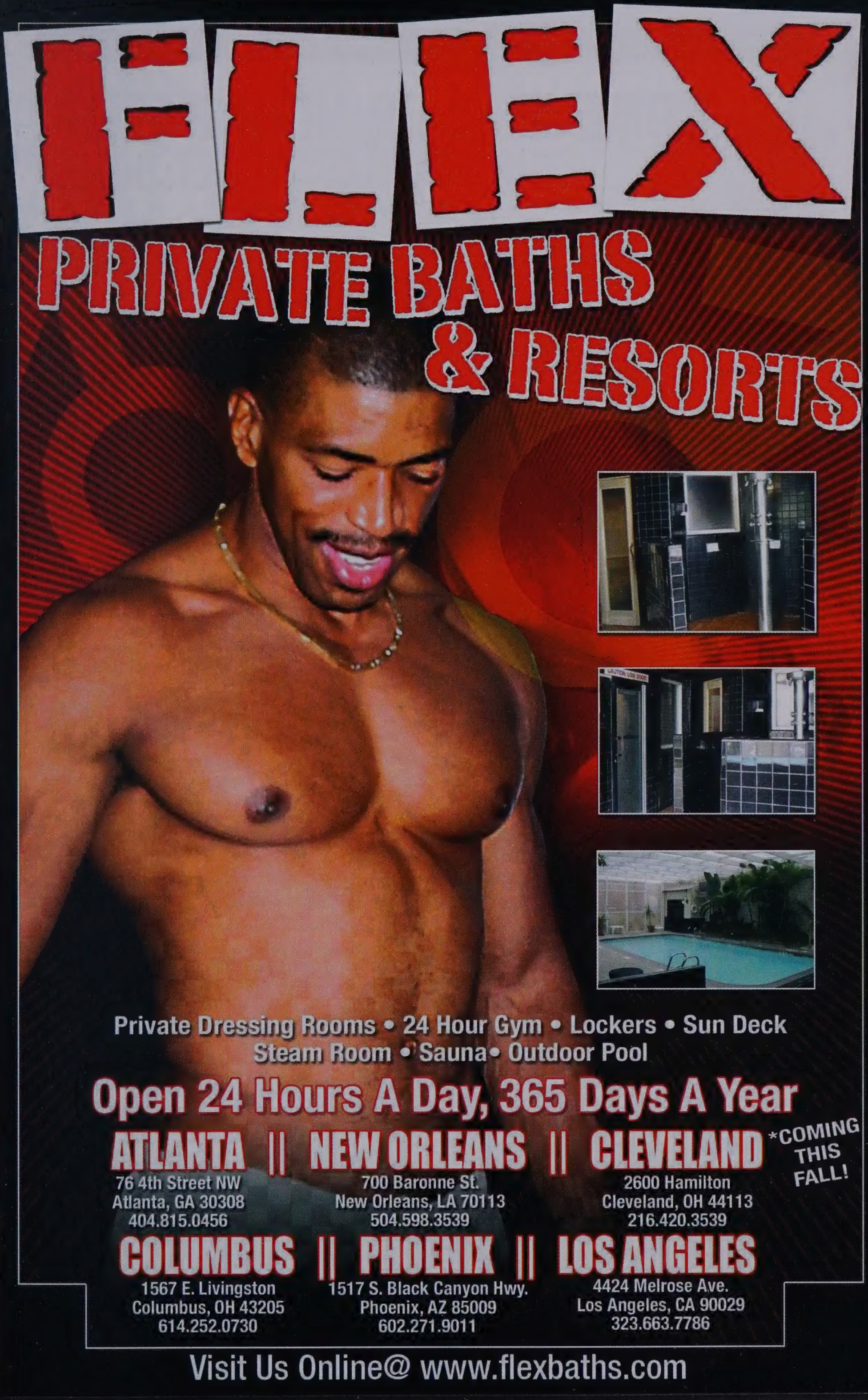
The same drama continues throughout our adolescent and adult lives. What people think of us is very important to most of us and before we know it we are living for the judges and not ourselves. We try to please our parents and teachers in grade school. Then we try to please our friends and fit in as teenagers and not to mention as adults, we try to please the dick we are getting from whomever. We become obsessed in what people think of us that we forget that our lives is just that, our lives. No matter what others think we can only control our lives and we should live it the way we really want.

Now that we have established that we are thrown into the competition of life and being judged every step of the way, lets think about how important it is to live up to the judges expectations.

The only time it is necessary to live up to the judges expectations is when you are actually competing in a pageant or contest of some sort, that is designed to be judged on specific criteria. However, if there isn't a tiara off to the side, along with a cash prize, then you need to set your own rules and be your own judge. Quite frankly, throw out the score sheet and do as you please. What others think of you is not important if you are doing your best, being true to yourself and being impeccable with your word.

In essence therefore, the important thing is to live your life for yourself. You are already a winner just be always being true to you.

So strut for the judges, let them watch you serve, throw them shade, eat the runway and regardless of what they might say, do it like no one is watching. CLK



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Written By Don Sneed

COME HELL OR HIGH WATER

THE JOB HAS TO GET DONE

July 29, 2004 Dallas, Texas, reporting during the ongoing Monsoon/Deluge of July 28th, 29th. My beloved Brothers/sisters, fathers/mothers, sons/daughters and other readers of Clikque Magazine, I ask your forgiveness for my delay in reporting to you on the HIV/AIDS catastrophe that has stricken our Black people throughout the world and especially in our Motherland, Africa.

As a member of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA), which charges it's members to provide the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Tommy Thompson and President Bush with advice, recommendations and information that is at each member's disposal, for relief of the AIDS catastrophe. For those of you who know me personally I continue to execute my advisory duties honesty, steadfastness and the old time 1960's Civil Rights era courage - come hell or high water.

The International AIDS Conference recently concluded in Bangkok, Thailand, and for us {Black folks} the news went from horrifying too tragic (mind you this is 22 years into the epidemic). Each of my readers knows someone with the deadly AIDS virus or someone or many that have already succumbed to this Scourge of the 21st Century. In 2003 5 million people were newly infected with the Deadly AIDS virus [Please do not believe the hype - AIDS will still kill you DEAD!}. In 2003 3 million people died from AIDS will a total of 21.8 million body bags since the beginning of the epidemic. Just in case any of you all have been too busy too notice: the majorities of the 21.8 million dead bodies are black people and the majority of them or black women! In our country black SGLs (Same Gender Loving) males the heaviest and most vicious of the HIV/AIDS disease burden, with Black women close on our heels. The majority of Children in our nation with HIV/AIDS are Black Children. I refuse to continue to wax eloquent about how horrible this Epidemic is for us. Suffice it to say that HIV is a weapon of mass destruction when it comes to its effect on Black People, not only in America, but also throughout the world. The question is what are we going to do about it?

The answer to that question is much of nothing. Let us cut to the chase. The American taxpayers and other public and private entities have shouldered the overwhelming majority of the burden for providing the economic resources (money) for black organizations to prevent the spread of this disease amongst our people and to provide life sustaining services to those of us who already have it. Brothers/Sisters, lets take of the blinders, pull the cotton from our ears and get our feet out of our mouths: this approach is killing us. At the recent 23rd Meeting of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS I made it quite clear and had it entered into the records my concerns regarding the adverse impact of individual and institutionalized racism on the disproportionate health outcomes for Black Americans when it comes to AIDS. I went on to point out my observation of the domination, control and manipulation of billions and billions of public and private dollars for HIV/AIDS relief in this country by White gay men and the organizations run by and/or controlled by them. It should be apparent to even a deaf, dumb and blind individual, with severe mental defects and disorders, that our white gay and lesbian brothers/sisters are either clueless as to what to do to effectively serve Black people with or at highest risk for contracting HIV or they are suffering from a chronic case of apathy by choice. Let me reassure all of you: I love all 6 billion plus of God's Children on this planet but I do and will take issue with any of their behaviors that cause pain, death and suffering to innocent individuals and/or groups. Remember, many white gay nightclubs, throughout America still have "Black Folks nights" at their clubs (one night out of the week or month when Black people are made to feel welcome.

We have only ourselves to blame, primarily, for this tragic state of affairs. During the 22 years of the AIDS Death March (Pandemic) black gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual, transgender, Down-Lo (deep Cover, In the Bushes, Between-the-Sheets, or whatever) brothers have been missing in action, asleep at the switch, or out to lunch for lunch meat when it comes to coughing up some serious dollars of their own to fight this monster called HIV/AIDS. This has, truly, not been the case with our White Gay/Lesbian counterparts on the other side of town. Please, let us refrain from engaging in this propaganda, sham and out right lie that Black Gays/lesbians, etc., don't have the money to donate. I heard just last week that some Brothers/Sisters are feverously organizing a Black

COME HELL CONTINUES ON PAGE 16

Mr. Don Sneed is a senior staff writer of Clikque Magazine. As Agency Director of Renaissance III in Dallas, Texas, Mr. Sneed has been a pillar in our community fighting the spread of HIV and AIDS. In January of 2003 Mr. Sneed was sworn in by Claude Allen, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, to serve a four-year term on the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA).

THIS NOVEMBER GET READY FOR THE FIRST & ONLY HIP-HOP PARTY DURING

WHITE PARTY 2004

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Details Coming Soon

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HOST HOTELS: The Raleigh The Standard

www.whiteparty.com

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

Gay/Lesbian Pride week in Buctussell/hootersville just in time for Kwanzaa/Christmas/New Years holiday season and the three main hotels and other venues are already sold out!!! Black Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals, SGLs, Down-Lo {Under-the-Covers, in-the-bushes, "EE Trade Boiz {electronic-email} whatever, have more than adequate disposable cash to match Black AIDS Service Organizations annual Budgets, dollar-for-dollar, in private donations, yet for over 22 years they have refused to because they are too self-centered, selfish and self-absorbed to not only give of their money, talents and time but also to even give a damn!!! This sort of behavior, trust, is sure to bring the wrath of God upon the heads of the individual and collective perpetrators of such a crime against humanity on this side of the sky, not on some "Judgment Day" after everyone is dead (probably from HIV/AIDS). Is Humanity to believe that a white SGLs life is more valuable to their brothers and sisters than ours is to us?!!!

Many Black AIDS Service Organizations, throughout America, are struggling to keep our doors open and executive directors are falling dead at their desks, having to continue to work 80 plus hour weeks under the horrific mandatory constraints, stipulations and regulations imposed upon us by public and private funding entities. Let us be for real my brothers and sisters; we are children of God and human too. In an effort, for us, as a people, who can afford it, to more effectively respond to a WMD terror which has claimed the lives of over 5 million Black women already; KIXCON (King-X Continuum), Inc., Renaissance III, Inc., and the young Black gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and Down-Lo brothers of the ALBRC (Abe Lincoln Black Republican Caucus) Dallas, Chapter, will introduce the 1-in 5-500 Emergency Black Private Citizens HIV/AIDS RELIEF Campaign.

The 1-in-5-500 Campaign will be announced at a press/media conference in Atlanta, Georgia, on August 18, 2004. This campaign will call upon 500 of our Black Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Down-lo/etc., Brothers/Sisters in five major cities to donate $1,000.00, within 30 days to a designated Black AIDS Service organization in their hometown with an ongoing Pledge of continuing support for a five-year period.

Because our beloved Brothers/Sisters have been so reluctant to contribute their minds, talent, time and most of all money, to save one another's lives {as our white counterparts do on the other side of town} the organizers of the 1-in-5-500 Black Private Citizens HIV/AIDS Emergency relief Campaign, will be borrowing a tactic from our counterparts playbook and publicly out those SGLs, who can afford it, who refuse to help us help one another. It is an insult and an international disgrace for us to ask and expect others to do for us that which we could and should be doing for ourselves. Please LOVE {not lust} one another. Love is Life.

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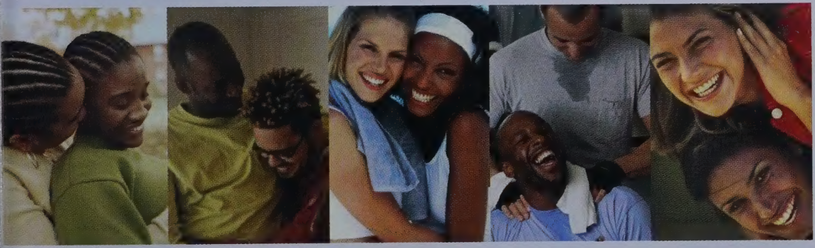

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STUDY FINDS NO EVIDENCE OF HIV SUPERINFECTION AMONG HIGHLY EXPOSED COUPLES

A study of 33 HIV-positive couples who engage in frequent unprotected sex finds no evidence of HIV superinfection, the term given to the idea that one can be infected with multiple strains of HIV that are slightly genetically different. The study by researchers at the Gladstone Institute of Virology and Immunology in San Francisco, which was presented at the 15th International AIDS Conference in Bangkok, Thailand, calls into question the widely held perception that HIV-positive people are susceptible to additional infections by viral variants that may be drug-resistant or more virulent, says lead researcher Robert Grant, MD.

The ongoing investigation, known as the Positive Partners study, began in 2001 and will eventually involve up to 200 HIV-infected couples. It is designed to investigate the incidence of HIV superinfection. In addition to the couples cited in these preliminary study findings, 30 individuals reporting multiple partners were included in the study. One of them, a participant who had recently developed HIV infection, presented with a highly divergent variation of the virus at a follow-up visit. "This one case demonstrates that people who have recently developed HIV-1 can harbor multiple viruses," notes Grant. "In contrast, superinfection has not appeared in people who have had the disease for many years, as our couples have."
The possibility that superinfection may be restricted to a short window period after the development of HIV has been suggested by experimental studies in nonhuman primates. In addition, a recent mathematical analysis demonstrated that superinfection restricted to a short window period after HIV seroconversion could account for the high prevalence of recombinant and dual infections observed in some parts of the world. This analysis has just been published in the July 23, 2004, issue of AIDS, the journal of the International AIDS Society, as a paper titled "HIV-1 Superinfection and Viral Diversity," by Grant and investigators Kimber L. Gross and Travis C. Porco of the San Francisco Department of Public Health.

"Studies are warranted to better understand why superinfection among patients who have had HIV for a long time is rare," Grant explains. "The mechanisms preventing superinfection may include specific or non-specific antiviral immune responses or viral interference. If there is indeed an immune response at play, it's reasonable to investigate the possibility of inducing that response with a vaccine that can be made available to high-risk HIV-negative individuals."

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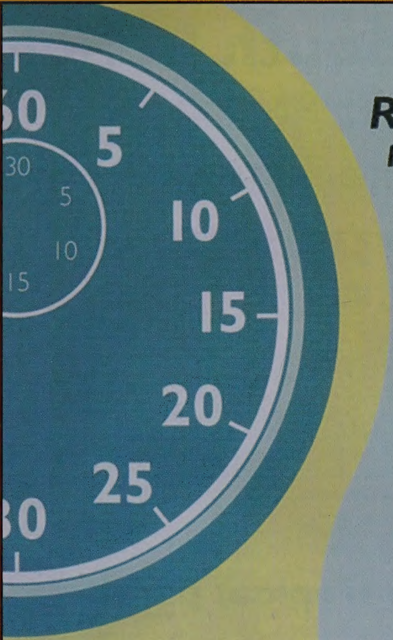

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Written By Carrington JaRel Lei

Does the black family bear some responsibility for the "DL" brotha and the HIV infection rate in African-American women?

At some point, and who dares suggest when, "sup!", "baby daddy", sagging pants, Escalades on 22's, basketball and hip - hop all became synonymous with the African-American male. As "flattering" as all of that may seem (and that's usually depending upon who you are and where you come from), there is yet another affectation to add to our repertoire. Neatly tucked beneath our mattresses right next to the guns, gold teeth, demo-tapes and drug stashes; black men can now proudly lay claim to the term, "DL".

According to the latest CDC statistics, African-American women account for 72% of all new HIV cases and HIV/AIDS is among the top three causes of death for African-American men ages 25-54. While not totally disagreeing with those numbers - as I have complete confidence in the people who have devoted their time and energy to researching them, I am not as emphatic regarding the implication behind them. How does one alter the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the African - American bisexual male without addressing the justification behind the bisexual male?

As the current trend in pop-culture seems to have become laying blame for these numbers and their contribution to the breakdown of the black family on the shoulders of the "DL brotha", it is just as alarming that no one seems to be willing to call to task the black family for their contributions in creating the "DL brotha"!

"Faggot! Punk! Sissy! Gay! Funny!" Depending upon who you are and the context of your delivery, directing one of these terms at a black man can either get you dismissed as a hater or just as easily, get you a quick ass-kickin'. As a kid growing up in a not so typical black family, I reflect upon my own youth and entree' into adulthood where, rare was the occasion that I can recall a time when either of those words were directed towards someone as a term of endearment. Never have I witnessed someone walk up to a father and his thirteen year old son to offer, "Man, your little faggot has some serious speed; you should try to get him on the track team." Or, "Girl, I remember when I used to change his diapers, now look at him, he turned out to be a handsome lil'punk!"

BY THE #s

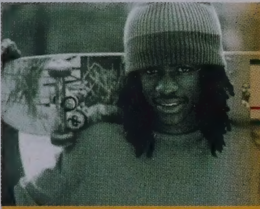
According to statistics received from the Center for Disease Control, one in 160 black women are infected by HIV and one-fourth of them are unaware of their status. Of particular concern is the fact that **64%** of all new HIV cases reported in 2003 were Black women.

Words such as these foster and inspire self-loathing, self-hatred, embarrassment and ultimately, the desire for a child to distance himself from all things gay or, "faggot-like". These comments are sometimes used in everyday conversation by a father, an older brother, an uncle, a mother, and in some cases even "granny" had a comment about the "bull-dagga" down the street.

Never met with a smile or a hug, these terms are always spat with disdain, contempt or hatred and typically coincide with feelings of anger. What child struggling to understand his/or her own same-sex attraction dare reveal these confusing feelings to his family or anyone close to him or her? Reveal that you are gay or bisexual to the very same people who have inadvertently addressed you with such repulsion? How dare we suggest that these children are now expected to approach friends and family with the revelation that, "I'm too, a faggot!"?

The African-American family has for far too long been caught up in what everyone else thinks and not spending enough time focusing on self and unconditional love. In a lot of cases, the crack-head we hide our valuables from when he stops by for a visit is more welcomed into our homes than the sister who is simply in love with another sister. I've personally gone into homes where there were pictures on the walls and atop the television of the son who is serving a life-sentence in prison for his "third-strike" or in some cases murder and not one of the son who went to college graduated, bought his own home, his own car and has never been in trouble. We're ashamed of him because he has a voice that is higher than we deem it should be, or dare I say because his eyebrows are arched. Why? Because he chooses to love another man and even with all of his accomplishments, he is still an embarrassment to the family.

We are so quick to point out the passages in the bible that single out homosexuality, but we make room at our tables for the adulterer who brings his woman to



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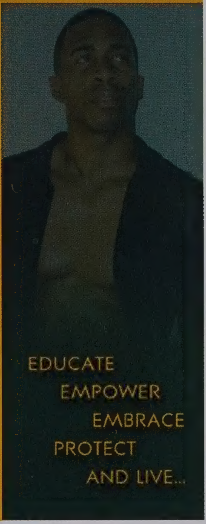

EDUCATE
EMPOWER
EMBRACE
PROTECT
AND LIVE...

the family reunion while his wife is at home.

Is it acceptable for a man to worship Michael Jordan, Lie to his brother, Covet his neighbors wife, commit adultery, and steal from his job, yet give him a pass while breaking five of the Ten Commandments but search the bible for a passage that speaks of homosexuality in an effort to demonize the homosexual? We have a tendency to pick which laws in the bible we choose to be governed by, which are usually the ones that apply to everyone else so we negate the fact that we continually break most of the Ten Commandments - "How 'bout them punks?"

At some point in our society, homosexuality has inched its way up the sin hierarchy to take its place as the ultimate sin and this writer does not believe that it's fair to the millions of same gender-lover people who work, love and lead productive lives to continue this destructive trend.

The black family, the black church and the black community as a whole has jumped on the "gays are evil" bandwagon and damaged our children to the point that when they become men, they forgo who they truly are in an effort to please society, but most importantly, to please those closest to them, family. There are more black men who marry and have children, yet lead the "DL" lifestyle because the black community dictates that they are supposed to and not necessarily because they want to, than most realize. Many gay or bisexual men live in cities far away from the realities of "home" because the reality is that it's more acceptable to be who you are from afar because that way we don't have to see it. Where are the statistics for the number of men and women who are HIV positive because they don't love themselves enough to truly care about protecting themselves from a possibly deadly disease because they've never felt loved?

Society says that as a black man by the time you are twenty-three, you are supposed to have at least three children with two baby mommas and at least one woman on the side and if not, you must be a fag! We need to love ourselves and our children enough to ensure that they know that no matter what they are or who they become, family is a bond that nobody, no disease, and no orientation can break.

The Black man's disappointment with his effeminate son is evident, whereas the white man, like his sons choice or not, is at minimum tolerant of it and in a lot of cases the lover/boyfriend becomes a part of the family.

As African-Americans, we have to become more conscious of the affect our personal beliefs have on our children and allow our children to become who they are on their own. When a white man has an affair his family doesn't know about it until he leaves her a house in his will because he understands the importance of allegiance to family and nothing, not even a long - term affair, will interfere with that. We, as African - Americans seem to be more caught up with what Miss Gladys down the street thinks than what our children might be going through. Although I think we understand that we must love our child because of who he is, the hard part is getting us to understand that there may also come a time when you have to love your child despite who he is.

TOP SELLING GAY TITLES OF ALL TIME

From Barnes & Nobel

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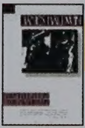
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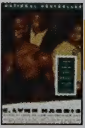
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ABIDE WITH ME
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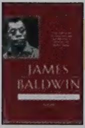
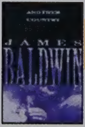

JAMES BALDWIN
6

Iceberg Slim
MAMA BLACK WIDOW
7


JAMES BALDWIN
8

E. LYNN HARRIS
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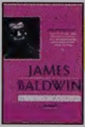
10

11

ZAMI
AUDRE LORDE
12


JAMES BALDWIN
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AUDRE LORDE
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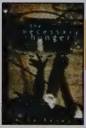
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17

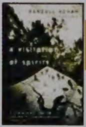
18

E. LYNN HARRIS
INVISIBLE LIFE
19

LOVE'S INSTRUMENTS
MELVIN DIXON
20

2ND TIME AROUND
JAMES EARL HARDY
21

IF ONLY FOR ONE NITE
JAMES EARL HARDY
22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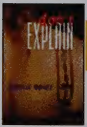

25

#1 Invisible Life

by E lynn Harris

Invisible Life is the story of a young man's coming of age. Law school, girlfriends, and career choices were all part of Raymond Tyler's life, but there were other, more terrifying issues for him to confront. Being black was tough enough, but Raymond was becoming more and more conscious of sexual feelings that he knew weren't "right." He was completely committed to Sela, his longtime girlfriend, but his attraction to Kelvin, whom he had met during his last year in law school, had become more than just a friendship. No matter how much he tried to suppress them, his feelings were deeply sexual.

Fleeing to New York to escape both Sela and Kelvin,

#2 GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

FROM THE PUBLISHER

"Mountain," Baldwin said, "is the book I had to write if I was ever going to write anything else."

Go Tell It On The Mountain, first published in 1953, is Baldwin's first major work, a novel that has established itself as an American classic. With lyrical precision, psychological directness, and a rage that is at once unrelenting and compassionate, Baldwin chronicles a fourteen-year-old boy's discovery of the terms of his identity as the stepson of the minister of a storefront Pentecostal church in Harlem one Saturday in March of 1935. Baldwin's rendering of his protagonist's spiritual, sexual, and moral struggle of self-invention opened new possibilities in the American language and in the way Americans understand themselves.

Top Sell African-American Gay Fiction of all time

1. Invisible Life
E. Lynn Harris / Paperback / Bantam Doubleday Dell Publishing Group / February 1994

2. Go Tell It on the Mountain
James Baldwin / Mass Market Paperback / Dell Publishing Company, Incorporated / May 1976

3. Just as I Am
E. Lynn Harris / Paperback / Bantam Doubleday Dell Publishing Group / February 1995

4. And This Too Shall Pass
E. Lynn Harris / Paperback / Random House Adult Trade Publishing Group / March 1997

5. Abide with Me
E. Lynn Harris / Paperback / Knopf Publishing Group / May 2000

6. Giovanni's Room
James Baldwin / Paperback / Dell Publishing Company, Incorporated / June 2000

7. Mama Black Widow
Iceberg Slim / Paperback / Lushena Publishing / June 1972

8. Another Country
James Baldwin / Paperback / Knopf Publishing Group / January 1993

9. If This World Were Mine
E. Lynn Harris / Paperback / Random House Adult Trade Publishing Group / July 1998

10. Love the One You're With
James Earl Hardy / Paperback / HarperCollins Publishers / July 2003

11. Go Tell It On the Mountain (Modern Library Series)
James Baldwin / Hardcover / The Random House Publishing Group / July 1995

12. Zami: A New Spelling of My Name: A Biomythography
Audre Lorde / Paperback / Crossing Press, Inc., The / April 1988

13. Go Tell It on the Mountain
James Baldwin / Paperback / Dell Publishing Company, Incorporated / June 2000

14. Loving Her
Ann Allen Shockley / Paperback / Northeastern University Press / September 1997

15. Collected Poems of Audre Lorde
Audre Lorde / Paperback / Norton, W. W. & Company, Inc. / January 2000

16. Necessary Hunger
Nina Revoyr / Paperback / St. Martin's Press / March 1998

17. Revenge Is Best Served Cold
Tracie Howard / Paperback / NAL Trade / October 2001

18. B-Boy Blues: A Seriously Sexy, Fiercely Funny, Black-on-Black Love Story
James Earl Hardy / Paperback / Alyson Publications / November 1994

19. Invisible Life
E. Lynn Harris / Audio / Random House Audio Publishing Group / March 1999

20. Love's Instruments
Melvin Dixon / Paperback / Tia Chucha Press / October 1995
Our Price: $10.95
Usually ships within 2-3 days

21. 2nd Time Around
James Earl Hardy / Paperback / Alyson Publications / September 1996

22. If Only for One Nite
James Earl Hardy / Paperback / Alyson Publications / May 1998

23. Visitation of the Spirits
Randall Kenan / Paperback / Knopf Publishing Group / January 2000

24. Giovanni's Room
James Baldwin / Hardcover / The Random House Publishing Group / May 2001

25. Don't Explain: Short Fiction
Jewelle Gomez / Paperback / Firebrand Books / July 1998

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

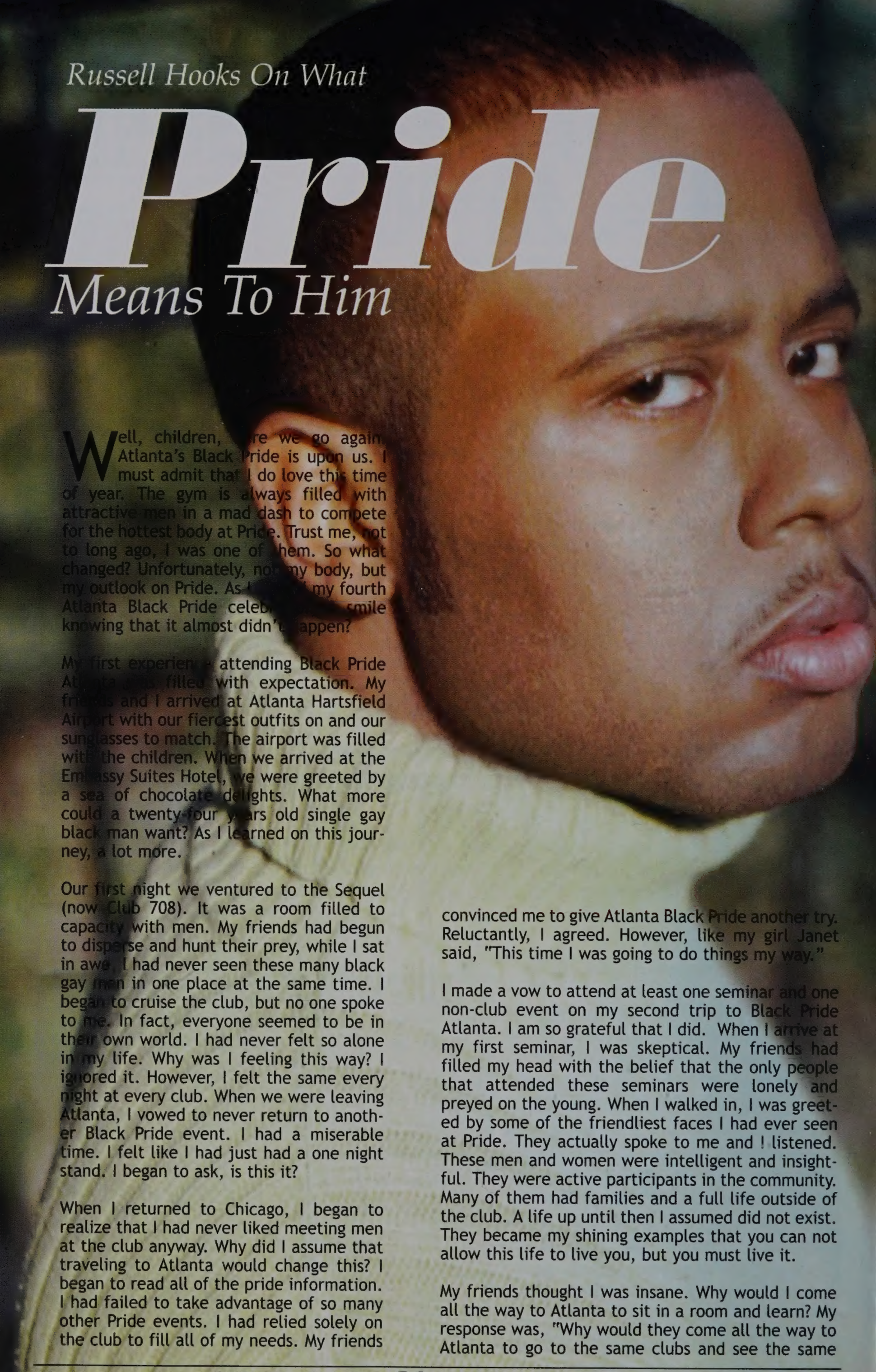
Raymond finds himself more confused than ever before. New relationships—both male and female—give him enormous pleasure but keep him from finding the inner peace and lasting love he so desperately desires. The horrible illness and death of a friend force Raymond, at last, to face the truth.

Invisible Life has been hailed as "one of the most thought-provoking books—since James Baldwin's Another Country" (Richmond Voice), and Harris's "stories have become the toast of bookstores, reading groups, men, women, and gay and straight people" (Atlanta Journal-Constitution). Proceeds from the sale of this special fifth anniversary edition will go to the E. Lynn Harris Foundation, a charitable organization that gives young people across the country the opportunity to study writing with established authors, and also aids emerging artists.

TOP 10 BOOKS SOLD AT OUTWRITE

1	***The Angel & The Poper***, by J.L. king, *Random House*
2	***What Becomes ...Broken Heart***, E Lynn Harris, *Random House*
3	***I'm On My Way***, Christopher Davis, *Author House*
4	***Luther***, Craig Seymour, *Harper Collins*
5	***Black, Gay and Christian***, Herndon L Davis, *Davis, Lett & Assoc.*
6	***Brothers of New Essex***, Belasco, *PGW*
7	***Passion Marks***, Lee Hayes, *Simon & Schuster*
8	***Any Way the Wind Blows***, E Lynn Harris, *Random House*
9	***Kindred***, Octavia Butler, *Houghton Miffin*
10	***If This World Were Mine***, E Lynn Harris, *Random House*

The list was compiled for Clikque Magazine courtesy of Outwrite Bookstore in Atlanta, Ga. Pick-up one of the books above by visiting Outwrite or a bookstore near you.



Russell Hooks On What

Pride

Means To Him

Well, children, here we go again. Atlanta's Black Pride is upon us. I must admit that I do love this time of year. The gym is always filled with attractive men in a mad dash to compete for the hottest body at Pride. Trust me, not to long ago, I was one of them. So what changed? Unfortunately, not my body, but my outlook on Pride. As I attend my fourth Atlanta Black Pride celebration, I smile knowing that it almost didn't happen?

My first experience attending Black Pride Atlanta was filled with expectation. My friends and I arrived at Atlanta Hartsfield Airport with our fiercest outfits on and our sunglasses to match. The airport was filled with the children. When we arrived at the Embassy Suites Hotel, we were greeted by a sea of chocolate delights. What more could a twenty-four years old single gay black man want? As I learned on this journey, a lot more.

Our first night we ventured to the Sequel (now Club 708). It was a room filled to capacity with men. My friends had begun to disperse and hunt their prey, while I sat in awe. I had never seen these many black gay men in one place at the same time. I began to cruise the club, but no one spoke to me. In fact, everyone seemed to be in their own world. I had never felt so alone in my life. Why was I feeling this way? I ignored it. However, I felt the same every night at every club. When we were leaving Atlanta, I vowed to never return to another Black Pride event. I had a miserable time. I felt like I had just had a one night stand. I began to ask, is this it?

When I returned to Chicago, I began to realize that I had never liked meeting men at the club anyway. Why did I assume that traveling to Atlanta would change this? I began to read all of the pride information. I had failed to take advantage of so many other Pride events. I had relied solely on the club to fill all of my needs. My friends convinced me to give Atlanta Black Pride another try. Reluctantly, I agreed. However, like my girl Janet said, "This time I was going to do things my way."

I made a vow to attend at least one seminar and one non-club event on my second trip to Black Pride Atlanta. I am so grateful that I did. When I arrive at my first seminar, I was skeptical. My friends had filled my head with the belief that the only people that attended these seminars were lonely and preyed on the young. When I walked in, I was greeted by some of the friendliest faces I had ever seen at Pride. They actually spoke to me and I listened. These men and women were intelligent and insightful. They were active participants in the community. Many of them had families and a full life outside of the club. A life up until then I assumed did not exist. They became my shining examples that you can not allow this life to live you, but you must live it.

My friends thought I was insane. Why would I come all the way to Atlanta to sit in a room and learn? My response was, "Why would they come all the way to Atlanta to go to the same clubs and see the same boys we have in Chicago? Now I am not one of those bitter girls who hate the club. Quite the opposite; however, let's not hate on those who want to experience more from Pride.

Reeling from this experience, I attended the Black Pride Marketplace. I was amazed at some of the things that people in our community were involved in. From art, literature, music, and community involvement, I met so many fascinating and nice people.

The same people that I had met early that afternoon were some of the faces that I passed by at the club that evening. And guess what happened this time? They spoke. In fact, attending these seminars and non-club events interwoven with the club only enhanced my Pride experience.

Now as I venture towards my fourth Atlanta Black Pride experience. I have even taken it one step further. I realized that many people felt the way I felt at Pride. Many of us are looking for alternative avenues to intermingle with the community at Black Pride. Now I am actively involved in creating other avenues for people to experience all that Atlanta Black Pride is and can be.

I am one of four incredible black men (James, J and Sean) who have co-founded, Together In Love, an organization committed to celebrating and championing the importance of African-American gay and lesbian relationships. This year we are proud to co-sponsor two events alongside In the Life Atlanta, Clikque Magazine, David Magazine and Southern Voices that will celebrate our couples. YES!!! My promotional company, I.M.G. Promotions, is also producing Peace Out South. An international G/L/B/T hip-hop concert which will be held Sunday, September 5th, at Phase One. This benefit concert will expose many of these pioneering G/L/B/T hip-hop artists to Atlanta for the first time.

As I conclude this article, I reflect on my own growth since my first Atlanta Black Pride. The pride that almost became my last. I realized that my experience at Pride only became better when I took it upon me, myself, and I to make it better. At this years Pride, if you felt the way I felt at my first Pride, I challenge you to step outside of the club at least for a moment and venture to one of these activities. I hope this will not only heighten your experience at Pride, but lead you to a better understanding of you and your community. Who knows? Maybe next year, I'll have the honor of attending one of your Atlanta Black Pride events? Stay true, and always do you. See you at Pride!

Russell D Hooks is co-creator of Together in Love. A social group committed to the celebration of African-American gay and lesbian relationships. He is also the President of I.M.G. Promotions. A company whose mission is to expand the voice of hip-hop to include the L/G/B/T community. He can be reached at russell.hooks@suntrust.com

Labor Day 2004

TOGETHER IN LOVE

Celebrating Committed Relationships
of GLBT People of Color

~ proudly presents ~

Couples Meet & Greet
Party
Saturday, Sept 4, 2004
Sheraton @ Colony Square
7pm - 11pm
$5 (donated to ITLA)

~ plus ~

The Newlywed Game
(Our Version)
Sunday, Sept 5, 2004
Sheraton @ Colony Square
6pm
Free Admission

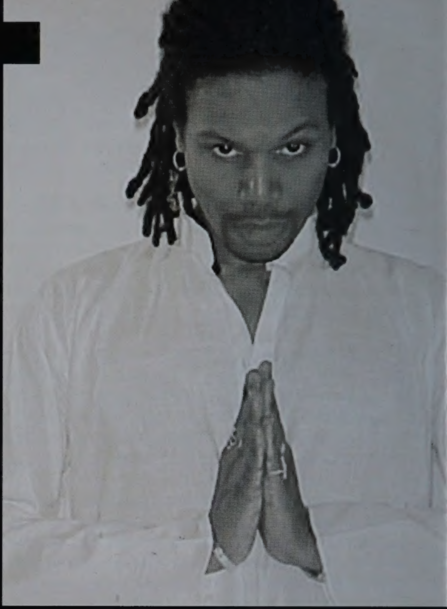
Hosted by Atlanta's own
Sophia McIntosh

For more information visit:
www.inthelifeatl.com/TIL

Sponsored by:
In The Life Atlanta
&
Clikque Magazine

Malik Williams, **HIV Prevention Specialist - AID Atlanta**

People often ask, "Why Black Gay Pride? Why be proud about just being who you are?" Too often, though, just being who I am is frowned upon, disparaged, attacked and maligned. Being who I am means having to listen to politicians, ministers, and various other unqualified commentators talk about how my "agenda" is threatening their way of life. Being who I am means explaining to my sistahs on a daily basis that HIV doesn't care about labels and identities. Being who I am means sometimes being an outsider in my own communities. Why Pride? Because being who I am takes more than just living, it takes courage. It takes commitment to truth. It takes a willingness to stand up, speak out, and fight oppression. And I believe integrity is something to be proud of. Why Pride? Living my life unapologetically — being who I am — is reason enough.



What Pride Means To Me

Photo by: Carlton Wilkinson,
Art Works Photography Nashville

Pride is one word that means so many different things to so many people. For me, it is an action word that means accepting who you are inside and letting it show without fear on the outside. It's not just a word that is synonymous with Gay/Same Gender Loving issues; it can range anywhere from culture, to ethnicity to style of dress or music. By living one's truth in all facets of your life including relationships, sexuality, heritage and culture, I think any person that visually reflects such an image is what having pride can mean to someone. - Dwayne Jenkins, Brothers United Network of Tennessee Inc., Nashville Black PRIDE.

Dwayne Jenkins, **Brothers United Progr**
Coordinator @ Nashville Cares

THE Chaparral

ATLANTA, GA.

2715 Buford Highway
404.634.3737
18 to party-21 to drink

Each & Every Sunday

Still Partying Late

this is a
blupree production

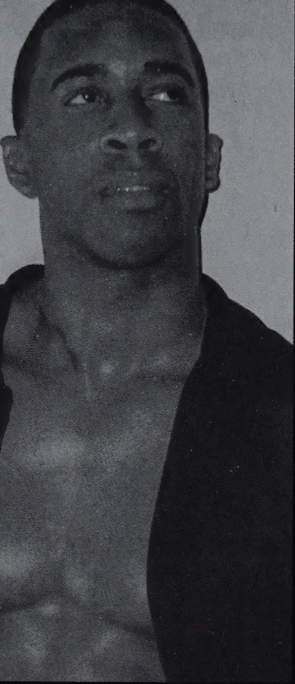
BLACK ATLANTA PRIDE

Male Strippers SUPER SHOW

The Place To Be This Labor Day Weekend
Reduced Admission Before Midnight
Super Male Revue Starts @ 11PM

SUN. SEPT 5TH

What Pride Means To Me



James Broussard, Prevention Case Manager YMSM

To me, Black Gay Pride means jumping on a plane with my good friends to Atlanta with the expectation of a No Holds Barred good time. I see a sea of diverse bruthas from all over the U.S. coming to one city, to one spot to let it all hang out. Martinis, margaritas, shots, and Coronas swallowed at the bar. Janet, Beyonce, Ludacris, Britney, Lil John, T.I., etc. screaming from a blazing sound system. And me, moving around the club in a tight pair of low rise jeans and some bad ass cowboy boots.

Kevin Bynes, Program Coordinator
For The Deeper Love Program @ - AID Atlanta

Very often I hear from white people who lack understanding that they do not see the need for a Black Gay Pride. Questions like "Why do they need their own pride?" surface constantly every year as we approach the pride festivities. So when asked to respond to the question "What Black Gay Pride means to me," I saw an opportunity to answer this question for the naysayers.

It has been suggested that Atlanta Pride should be for everyone. I tend to agree with this sentiment. I do have some questions, however, about who's job it is to make pride for everyone. I've many time heard this point raised as if it is the responsibility of Black folks to make this event for everyone as opposed to the responsibility of the Atlanta Pride Committee and that we should endure the feelings of alienation and otherness for the good of the whole. Pride should be for everyone, so ignore your needs and come celebrate with us.

Black Pride is my opportunity to be Black and Gay in multiple spaces for an entire weekend. Rarely do I get to be in a casual informal space that is both black and gay and be fulfilled. At Black Gay Pride, in that host hotel, I get to walk as my whole self into spaces. This is what Black Pride means to me.

THURSDAY 9.2.04

engage the hottest hoards of visiting men. start your holiday weekend off right with a new man or a whole freaky bunch.

FRIDAY 9.3.04

tonight will bring you closer and closer to an orgasmic experience bump and grind with the sexiest men.

SATURDAY 9.4.04

the ATL hot spot is banging off the chain. slam down on the dance floor the best dj and his beats.

SUNDAY 9.5.04

groove with the most on point men at the ritual tea dance, suntea, of the atl. the family reunion.

MONDAY *labor day*

get in your last hours of partying.
fullfill your fantasies to last you
till next year!!!

blackgaypride

atlanta labor day

proud sposor of
black gay pride

GET HERE EARLY TO AVOID LINES

4 BARS TO SERVE YOU

THE HOTTEST MUSIC

OUTDOOR GRILL ON OUR BIG DECK

BULLDOGS

893 Peachtree St. 404 872-3025
Open Daily 4pm-3am Sun 4pm-12am ATM
Visit Us Online at bulldogsbar.com

In The Life Atlanta Candle Light Vigil
2004

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2004
7:00pm TO 10:00pm
STUDIO PLEX 659 AUBURN AVE.

ITLA CELEBRATES THE LIVES AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF THOSE WHO PASSED FROM THIS EARTH. JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE WITH MUSIC, ART AND DANCE IN A JOYOUS REMEMBRANCE OF OUR PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE.

ATLANTA
2004
Black Gay Pride
ITLA
UNITY

Sponsored in part by:
Dekalb County Board of Health and Mother's Voices

Atlanta's 2nd Annual Black Gay & Lesbian film festival

See Us In The Life

Showcasing films by and about same gender loving people of African descent

Presented by:

In The Life Atlanta, Inc.
In Collaboration with
àFRIsistahs & MoJAM Entertainment

Septenber 2nd and 5th 2004

The Ski Trip – Maurice Jamal 80mins
Ski trip is a zany feature-length romantic comedy following the hijinks of a close group of 20-something gay friends

*Butch Mystique - Debra Wilson 35mins
Butch Mystique exposes the rules, thoughts, passions and concerns of African American butch-stud, identified lesbians.

Karmen Geï - Joseph Gaï Ramaka 82 mins
A retelling of the celebrated Carmen myth set in contemporary Senegal to African music and dance.

SEX, THE TALK - Wanda "Angel" Brown 3mins
This international documentary covers women in London, Johannesburg, Nigeria, Brazil and the USA about their true life stories and views on sexually transmitted diseases, the misconceptions of woman to woman safer sex and ways to bring up the safer sex conversation before being intimate.

Dakan - Mohamed Camara 87 minutes
Dakan is the first feature film on homosexuality from sub-Saharan Africa. It is the story of two men who by "coming out" disappear, become invisible to their families and society, because their society has no language, which recognizes their love.

Desperate in Love - Wanda "Angel" Brown 30mins
A Black Lesbian who's been out of the dating scene for quite some time; desperate for love, goes through all the drama that comes along with finding true love only to realize she need to love herself first.

If I Wuz Yo Gyrl - Coquie Hughes 75 min
An Experimental Work-In-Progress:
An urban drama about domestic violence between lesbiancouples

venues-TBA

for more information contact:
afrisistahs@bellsouth.net

ATLANTA
2004
Black Gay Pride
ITLA
UNITY

IN THE LIFE ATLANTA **ADVERTISEMENT**

Atlanta Black Gay Pride 2004

EVENT

Wednesday – September 1st, 2004
Clubs & Parties
Bulldogs - 893 Peachtree Street FREE with your VIP All Access Pass

WassupnATL Bowling Party – Location TBA

Thursday – September 2nd, 2004
Registration
12:00PM - 10:00PM Host Hotel - Sheraton Colony Square Passes available for pickup or purchase (if available)

Candlelight Vigil - FREE
7:00PM- 10:00PM @ Studioplex - 659 Auburn Ave Celebrate the lives of friends and family who have transitioned to the next journey in their lives. Sponsored in part by Dekalb County Board of Health

ÀFRIsistahs & Roots & Rhythm presents See Us In The Life Film Festival
PT 1 – Location TBA Screening starts at 7:00PM prompt
$15.00 at the door - 30% discount with VIP All Access Pass

Clubs & Parties
Bulldogs - 893 Peachtree FREE with your VIP All Access Pass

Affair with Flair's 70's & 80's Black Pride Kickoff party – 8:00pm until @ Leopard Lounge 84 12th Street - $5.00 - FREE with your VIP All Access Pass

San Juan Brothas Welcome Reception - 9:00pm to 12:00AM @ WETbar - 960 Spring Street - $5.00 – FREE with your VIP All Access Pass

WassupnATL Welcome to Atlanta Party @ Club Colours – FREE with your VIP All Access Pass

Friday – September 3rd, 2004
Registration
10:00AM - 10:00PM Host Hotel - Sheraton Colony Square

VIP Reception
6:30PM - 7:00PM Grand Ballroom North – FREE Hosted by Clikque Magazine, **this reception is for invited guests and media only.**

Meet & Greet - FREE
7:00PM - 7:30PM Grand Ballroom North – FREE Appetizers and Cash Bar, Meet your friends, neighbors, and fellow brothers and sisters in our pre kick off social.

Opening Reception - FREE
7:30PM - 9:30PM Grand Ballroom North
Welcome from ITLA Board of Directors and official kick of. Celebrate the start of the weekend with musical and performance artists for your entertainment. Cash Bar

Welcome Party
11:00PM - 4:00AM Crown Room (27th Floor) - Host Hotel - An Evening of Color – Featuring the sounds of DJ Cedric

LISTINGS

Atlanta Premier of Noah's Arc + Q&A with Director and Cast - Sat Sept 4th 9:00PM Host Hotel

Black Pride Marketplace - FREE
4:00PM - 11:00PM Grand Ballroom South - Host Hotel - Featuring local and national community retailers, organizations, and allies offering unique gifts, merchandise, and information tailored just for you.

SpeakFire! - An evening of Erotica (open Mic)
12:00AM - 3:00AM - Host Hotel
Share your most innermost desires, dreams, and realities in an evening of erotic spoken word performance art. $8.00 (Free with VIP All Access or UNITY Pass)

Clubs & Parties
Bulldogs - 893 Peachtree Street FREE with your VIP All Access Pass

Affair with Flair's "The Silk Party" The sexiest upscale dance party in Atlanta with R&B recording artist, DJ, Buffet, and Door Prizes - 10:00pm until @ Silk – 919 Peachtree St - $15.00 - FREE with your VIP All Access Pass

My Sister's Room - 222 East Howard Decatur
FREE with your VIP All Access Pass
Saturday September 4th, 2004

Registration & Information
10:00AM - 10:00PM Host Hotel
Passes available for pickup or purchase (if available)

Black Pride Marketplace - FREE
10:00AM - 10:00PM Georgia Ballroom South

Featuring local and national community retailers, organizations, and allies offering unique gifts, merchandise, and information tailored just for you.

Community Luncheon and Panel discussion
11:30AM - 2:00PM $25.00 (Free with All Access VIP, UNITY, and Conference passes)

Workshop Series (Day one)
2:00PM - 6:00PM – Host Hotel

Health and Wellness Fair
12:00PM - 4:00PM - Grand Ballroom North
Learn about the health issues unique to African American men and women. Free health screenings for diabetes, hypertension (high blood pressure), referrals for STD and HIV testing, nutrition information, mental health, and holistic medicine. This health fair is intended to cover the whole you, from top to bottom to help you live healthy and happy

WassupnATL Pool Party – 418 Armour Drive
4:00PM - 8:00PM – (Metro Inn Conference Center Pool – behind the hotel)
(FREE)

Poetry Slam
6:00PM – 9:00PM Host Hotel
$5.00 (Free with VIP All Access or UNITY Pass)
(spoken word artist must register at the registration desk any time prior to 3:30PM)

ZAMI Presents: A Feast Of Kings: Girls Do Boys
9:00PM - Grand Ballroom North
(ZAMI's hosts it 3rd Annual Drag King Show benefiting its Audre Lorde Scholarship Fund)

IN THE LIFE ATLANTA **ADVERTISEMENT**

Atlanta Black Gay Pride 2004

EVENT LISTING

Couples' Meet/Greet Bash – Sponsored by Together In Love 7:00PM – 11:00PM – Host

Outdoor Activities – Piedmont Park Spades Tournament – Sponsored by NetFlix – Park Pavilion Volleyball Tournament – Location TBA 4:30pm to 7:30pm Dodge Ball Tournament – Location TBA 4:30pm to 7:30pm Tug-of-War – Location TBA – 4:30pm to 7:30pm

Clubs & Parties
Bulldogs - 893 Peachtree Street FREE with All Access Pass

WassupnATL True Pride Party @ Traxx – 339 Marietta St - 50% off with VIP All Access Pass

Affair with Flair's "Cherries & Berries" - R&B Recording artist, DJ, Buffet, and Door Prizes @ Cherry 1051 West Peachtree St. $15 or FREE with VIP All Access Pass

Sunday September 5th, 2004
Interfaith Worship Service - Free 11:00AM – 12:00PM - Host Hotel

Workshop Series (Continued)
2:00PM - 6:00PM
Black Pride Marketplace - Free
12:00PM - 6:00PM Georgia Ballroom South Featuring local and national community retailers, organizations, and allies offering unique gifts, merchandise, and information tailored just for you.

Literary Café
5:00PM - 7:00PM - Host Hotel $5.00 Donation (Free with VIP All Access or UNITY Pass)

ÀFRIsistahs & Roots & Rhythm presents See Us In The Life Film Festival - PT 2 Location TBA Doors open at 5:00pm Screening starts at 5:00 prompt $15.00 at the door 30% discount with VIP All Access Pass

Newlywed Game – the Gay Version 6:00PM – Host Hotel - Hosted by Ms. Sophia McIntosh

The Famelee Affair Hip-Hop Concert Presented by IMG Promotions 7:00pm – 10:30pm Location TBD

$5.00 (Free with VIP All Access Pass)

Outdoor Activities – Piedmont Park

Clubs & Parties
Bulldogs - 893 Peachtree St. FREE with your VIP All Access

My Sister's Room - 222 East Howard Decatur FREE with your VIP All Access Pass

TRAXX - 339 Marietta St – 50% off with your VIP All Access Pass

Monday September 6th, 2004
3rd Annual Stand Up and Represent Black Gay Pride March and Rally
See www.inthelifeatl.com for assemble and step off times

3rd Annual Family Reunion Picnic – Piedmont Park- FREE 1:00PM - 5:00PM - Bring the kids, bring the parents, and bring the smiles as we celebrate the close of the Labor Day weekend as any extended family should!

Atlanta Black Gay Pride 2004 - Sponsors

AID ATLANTA
HORIZON
ATLANTA Wyndham Hotels
David Atlanta Magazine
Affair With Flair
southern voice
Sheraton Colony Square Hotel Mid-Town Atlanta
Clikque Magazine
eM designs

Stand Up & Represent: Black, Out and Proud
stand up represent pub
Black, Out & Proud
Atlanta Labor Day 2003

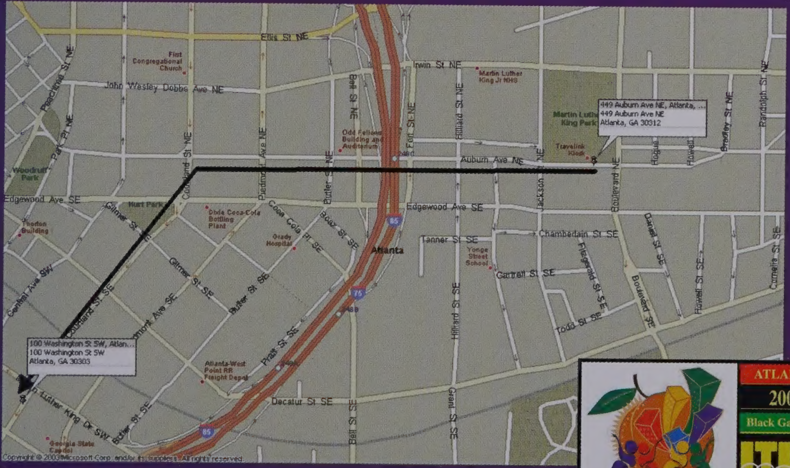
4th Annual Stand Up & Represent: Black, Out and Proud!

Monday, September 6th, 2004

Join us as we make history while marching from the King Center through the historic Auburn Avenue area of Atlanta to the steps of the Georgia State Capitol. The Stand Up and Represent Black Gay Pride March returns to its original route, truly a celebration of our roots and growth.

Be a part of history and Stand Up and Represent!

Assemble: 10:00AM at The King Center 449 Auburn Ave. NE


Ellis St NE
First Congregational Church
John Wesley Dobbs Ave NE
Irwin St NE
Martin Luther King Jr NHS
Martin Luther King Park
449 Auburn Ave NE, Atlanta, ...
449 Auburn Ave NE
Atlanta, GA 30312
Travelink Kiosk
Auburn Ave NE
Odd Fellows Building and Auditorium
Edgewood Ave SE
Woodruff Park
Hurt Park
Olde Coca-Cola Bottling Plant
Grady Hospital
Atlanta
Tanner St SE
Yonge Street School
Chamberlain St SE
Carroll St SE
Todd St SE
Decatur St SE
Atlanta-West Point RR Freight Depot
100 Washington St SW, Atlan...
100 Washington St SW
Atlanta, GA 30303
Martin Luther King Dr SW
Georgia State Capitol
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ATLANTA
2004
Black Gay Pride
ITLA
UNITY

Pride on our side

After 11 years in the business, **TRAXX** Nightclub still remains one of the Nation's premiere entertainment spots for black gay men.

Humans have always been able to find a reason to party. Fortunately, because they are cutting edge, contemporary, yet classic, **Boone Management, Inc.**, has always managed to find a plethora of reasons to provide its patrons with an extraordinary time. Boone Management's festivities are dynamic and diverse expressions of what works. Boone Management, Inc., is a trendsetter which carries distinction in its hip pocket and as always will keep its audience captivated.

Boone Management, Inc., is a business of commitment, with over ten years of experience in the entertainment arena. They are one of the leaders of this industry and a major source of Atlanta's nightlife entertainment. According to CEO **Mr. Philip Boone**, they specialize in perfection and guarantee the delivery of incredible service. **Traxx Nightclub** was originally founded in 1985. During this era Traxx Nightclub, a.k.a. Boone Management, Inc., was known as **THE RITZBOYZ**. As The Ritzboyz, Boone Management, Inc., threw parties at various venues, clubs, and at home every Saturday Night. ***In fact, Home, Atlanta Overlook, Apt. K-11, is where the saga began.***

In 1989, the late **Mr. David Hampton** became the Manager of the **Phoenix** a.k.a. Traxx. When the Phoenix was closing its doors in 1993, Mr. Hampton and Mr. Boone ceased the opportunity to reopen the Phoenix as the **Legendary Traxx**.

Boone Management, Inc., was founded in Atlanta, GA in 1993, and is now one of, if not, the most popular gay African-American male production and promotion company in the

country. In 1984, Mr. Boone was the Room Service Manager for the Ritz Carlton. In 1986 he was the Banquet Captain for the Marriot Marquis. Of note is the extraordinary fact that Mr. Boone opened both establishments. Boone was the General Manager for Dante's Down The Hatch from 1986-1994. Mr. Phillip Boone, a Manager in Atlanta's thriving restaurant/hotel industry for over ten years, founded Boone Management, Inc. 11 years ago the doors to Traxx Nightclub opened offering customers a high energy, safe, and sexy environment for men who love to party with men.

Boone Management, Inc., prides itself on catering to every facet of the gay community. BMI provides a quality function and the fiercest music in the South.

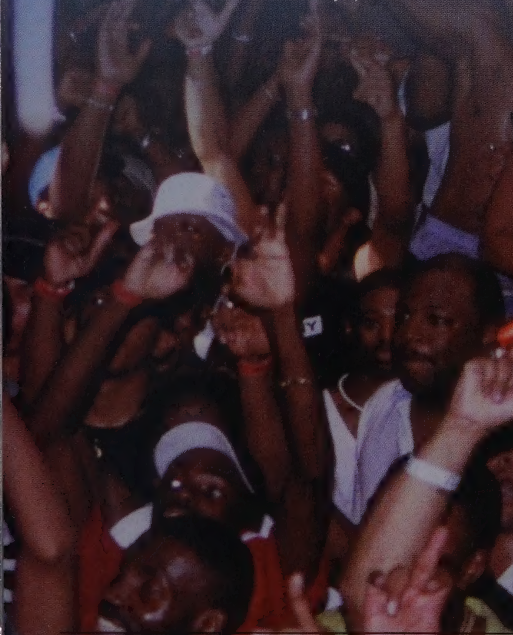
This company's pulsating vibes have electrified Atlanta, as well as party goers from the East to the West coast since 1993. **Foxy Brown, T.I., Crystal Waters, Biggie Smalls, Busta Rhymes, Nas, Total, Martha Wash, Tupac, Faith, Monica, Usher, Outkast, Keith Sweat, Da Brat, Mary J. Blige, Tribe Called Quest, Rakim, Kid Capri, and Biz Markie** are a few of the artist who have graced our stage with electrifying performances. Boone Management, Inc., (a.k.a. Traxx, Barcode, Warehouse, and the Ritzboyz) has stunned its listening and dancing audience over and over again.

Boone Management, Inc., not only prides itself on entertaining its community, but BMI also prides itself on educating, enlightening, and enhancing the community, by working with several organizations, such as: My Brother's Keeper, N.A.E.S.M., I.T.L.A., the AIDS Walk, most African-American Fraternities and Sororities, as well as many of the city's Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Mr. Boone is also a member of Atlanta Chamber of Commerce and the National Hotel/Restaurant Association.

Boone Management, Inc., is dedicated to entertaining and overwhelming its customers and will continue to do so in the future by hosting the hottest functions of the century. Catch Boone Management at work this Labor Day weekend in Atlanta GA at 306 Luckie St.

The dynamic Traxx team consists of
Mr. Phillip Boone (CEO/ President)
Mr. Homer Hammonds (General Mgr/P.R.)
Mr. Durand Robinson (Operations Manager)
Mr. Anthony Whitehead (Creative Director)
Mr. Gerald Thomas-"g" (Promotions/P.R.)

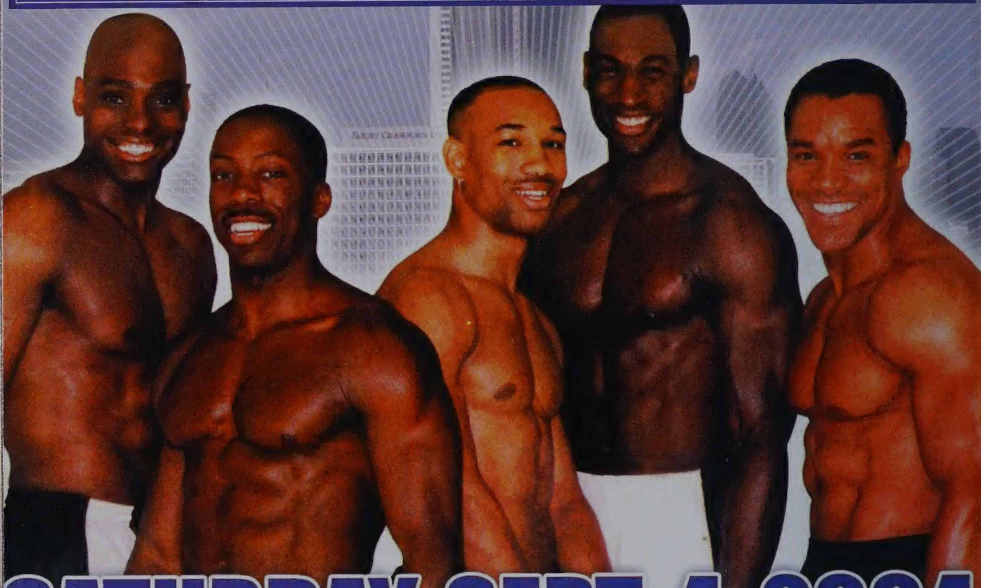


Mr. Phillip Boone (CEO/ President)
With Miami sensation, Trina

LABOR DAY '04 ~ TRAXX PRESENTS:

MERGE

"Bringing Men From Across The Nation Together"



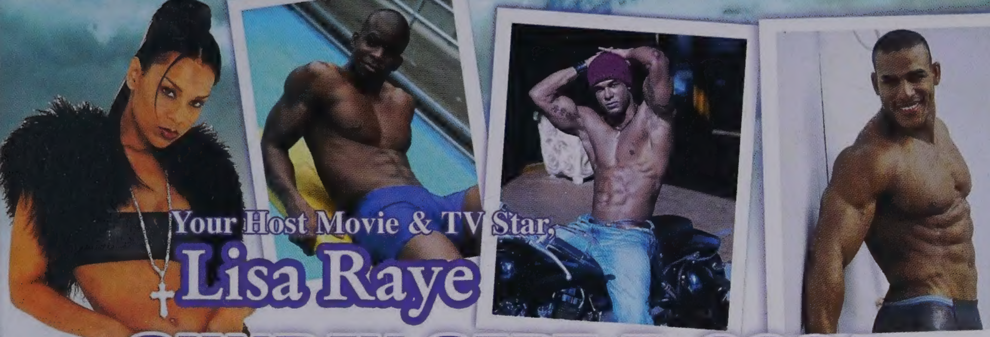
SATURDAY, SEPT. 4, 2004

TRAXX PRESENTS:

INTERGRATION

Join over 5,000 men partying to the hottest & hardest music, enveloped in a realm of temptation, seduced by the Nation's most alluring Go-Go Dancers and fueled by intoxicating drinks.

HIP-HOP MUSIC BY: HOT 107.9'S DJ TRUZ • DOORS OPEN @ 10PM



Your Host Movie & TV Star,

Lisa Raye

SUNDAY, SEPT. 5, 2004

TRAXX IN ASSOCIATION W/ N.A.E.S.M PRESENTS:

ALL OF US

TRAXX'S CELEBRATED POOL PARTY@ PIEDMONT PARK

Come get HOT, STICKY & WET with over 1,000 gorgeous men at the fiercest pool in HOTLANTA. Dive into the Olympic size pool. Be athletic at the tennis courts, baseball & soccer fields. Groove on the large dance floor to the hottest Hip-Hop music. GUARANTEED a Fabuous time rain or shine. Plus a Fabulous firework display.

OPEN BAR 3-4PM • FREE BAR-B-QUE • DOORS OPEN @ 2PM • PIEDMONT PARK

MONDAY, SEPT. 6, 2004

"MONDAY NIGHT WITH THE STARS OF THE CENTURY"

BLEND

Hosted by the witty, Dominique Rashad

Starring: Niesha Dupree, Raquel Lord, Stasha Sanchez, Jasmine Bonet, Necole Luv Dupree, Tamisha Iman, Archie Bonet, Monte St. James, R'Darius Black and a host of celebrity guests.

Limited Table Reservation.

Please contact Felicia @ 404.681.4422 after 3pm on Mon., Sept. 6th

DOORS OPEN @ 10PM • SHOW STARTS @ 12AM

TUESDAY, SEPT. 7, 2004

"THE HIP-HOP PHENOMENON"

MIX

Don't miss the culminating party of the year! Join over 2,000 men partying until dawn to the hard hitting hip-hop beats by:

Hot 107.9's DJ Truz.

$2 BUDWEISERS • DOORS OPEN @ 11PM

***PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL OF ATLANTA'S CLUBS CLOSE @ 2:30AM SO GET THERE EARLY! DON'T MISS THE AFTER HOUR FUNCTIONS**

traxxatlanta@hotmail.com • www.traxxatlanta.com

306 LUCKIE ST. • 404.681.4422

XTREME ENTERTAI

BLACK MEGA PART

RIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2004

THE LION'S DEN "CREAM" PARTY

A Heavenly Experience

THE MASQUERADE
695 NORTH AVE. NE
ATLANTA, GA 30308
DOORS OPEN 9PM – UNTIL

FEATURING: 3 DANCE FLOORS
SURPRISE PERFORMANCE BY NATIONAL RECORDING ARTIST(S)
E SEXIEST ANGELS, THE SEXIEST STRIPPERS, AND THE SEXIEST BOYS ALIVE
MUSIC BY DJ SEDRICK, SHOWS & SPECIAL GUEST DJ AND MORE...

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2004

XTREME ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

ROCKMOND DUNBAR

OF THE CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED SHOWTIME ORIGINAL SERIES "SOUL FOOD"
AND STAR OF THE INDIE FILM "PUNKS"

THE LIONS DEN

"WET DREAM" POOL PARTY

Wyndham Atlanta Hotel Downtown Atlanta
160 Spring Street NW
Atlanta, GA 30303
Doors Open 6PM - Until

ALSO FEATURING
6 OF THE SEXIEST HOT BOY DANCERS
AND INTRODUCING THE 2005 LIONS DEN CALENDAR MODELS
"TOP-N-BOTTOMS" FASHION SHOW, SPECIAL SHOWING OF "PUNKS"
MUSIC BY DJ JFK & DJ SEDRICK
YOU'VE NEVER HAD A WET DREAM LIKE THIS!

www.xtremeenterta

User Name "xtreme" /

Info Line: (770) 991-6929 /

IMENT PRESENTS

PRIDE
Y WEEKEND

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2004

THE ULTIMATE, THE BIGGEST, WEEKEND PARTY

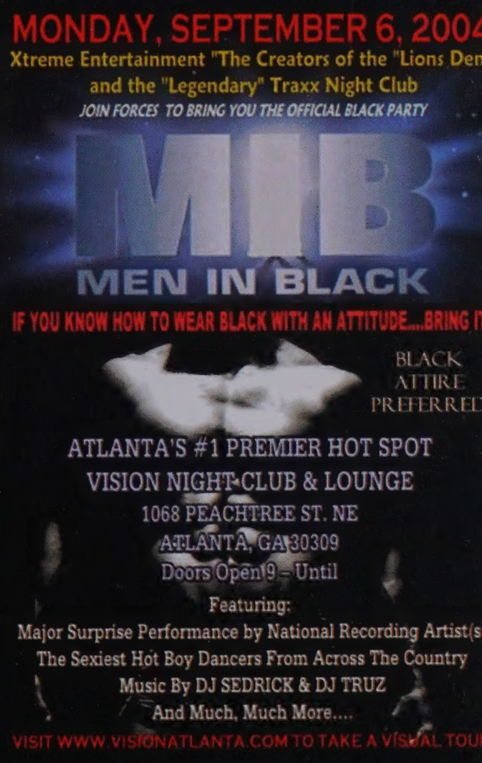
THE LIONS DEN
"EROTIC FESTIVAL"

Featuring: 3 Dance Floors
Out Door Festival
Vendors
Surprise Performance by National Recording Artist(s)
The Sexiest Strippers Alive
Shows and More... @

THE MASQUERADE
695 NORTH AVE. NE
ATLANTA, GA 30308
DOORS OPEN 6PM - UNTIL

IF YOU THOUGHT THAT LAST YEAR WAS "OFF THE CHAIN"
WAIT UNTIL YOU SEE WHAT WE'VE GOT IN STORE FOR YOU!
THIS PARTY IS SO BIG WE HAD TO MOVE TO A LARGER LOCATION!

Accepting Vendor Applications for Festival
Contact Xtreme @ 770-991-6929



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2004

Xtreme Entertainment "The Creators of the "Lions Den
and the "Legendary" Traxx Night Club
JOIN FORCES TO BRING YOU THE OFFICIAL BLACK PARTY

MIB
MEN IN BLACK

IF YOU KNOW HOW TO WEAR BLACK WITH AN ATTITUDE....BRING I

BLACK
ATTIRE
PREFERRE

ATLANTA'S #1 PREMIER HOT SPOT
VISION NIGHT-CLUB & LOUNGE
1068 PEACHTREE ST. NE
ATLANTA, GA 30309
Doors Open 9 – Until

Featuring:
Major Surprise Performance by National Recording Artist(s
The Sexiest Hot Boy Dancers From Across The Country
Music By DJ SEDRICK & DJ TRUZ
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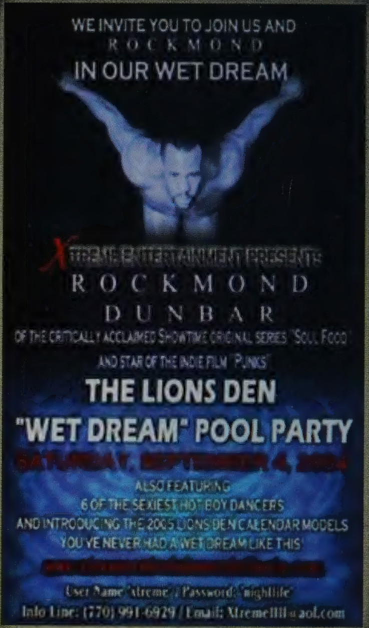

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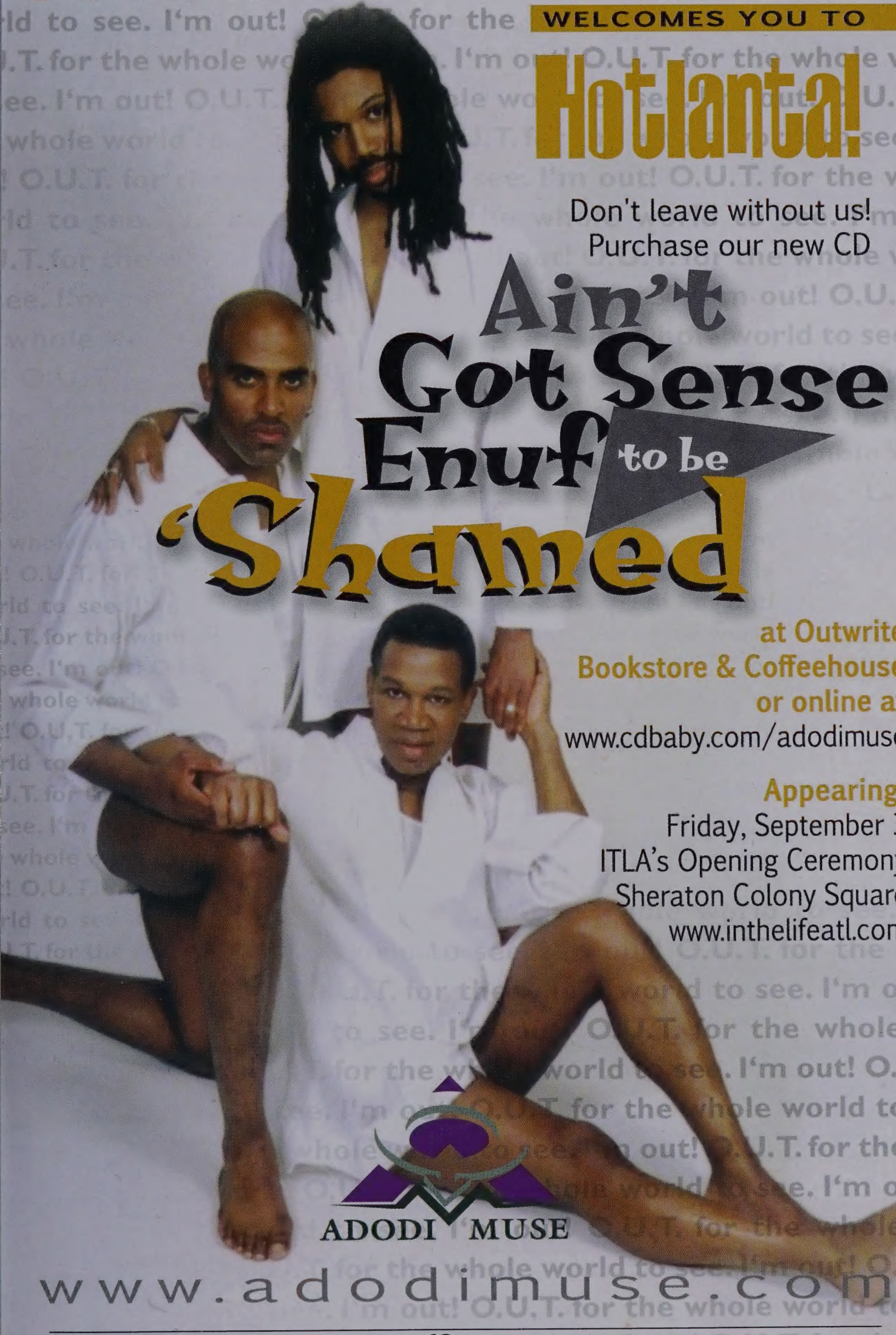
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Clikque Magazine
Movie Review
By Dwight Powell
Editor-In-Chief

NOAH'S ARC

Writer, director and producer PATRIK-IAN POLK has finally done it - produced a mini-series that truly represents black gay men in a way never before captured on television. NOAH's ARC, a hip, steamy, fresh, realistic and delightfully witty mini-series looks into the lives of four gay men living in Los Angeles is a must see. For years we've had to resort to television programs such as Will and Grace, Queer As Folk, Boy Meets Boy, and Queer Eye for

NOAH CONTINUES
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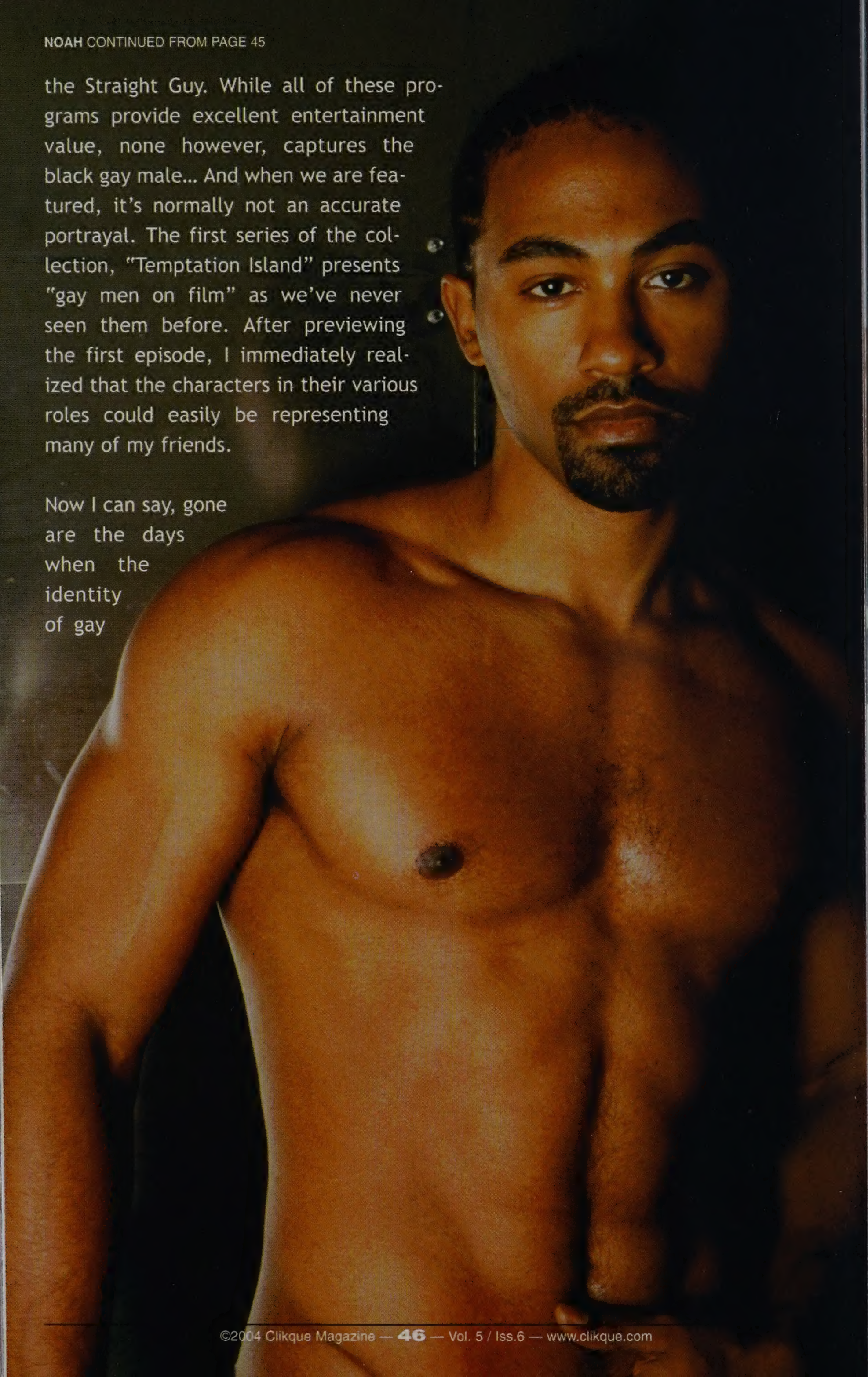
the Straight Guy. While all of these programs provide excellent entertainment value, none however, captures the black gay male... And when we are featured, it's normally not an accurate portrayal. The first series of the collection, "Temptation Island" presents "gay men on film" as we've never seen them before. After previewing the first episode, I immediately realized that the characters in their various roles could easily be representing many of my friends.

Now I can say, gone are the days when the identity of gay



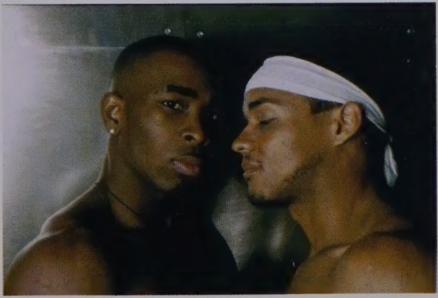
black men is imaged from those of white gay men on television. Polk, with this mini-series, is out to set the record straight that not all gay people are white. Described as Sex and the City meets Queer As Folk and together crashing into Soul Food, NOAH'S ARC provides a venue for gay black men to have a voice and for the first time, show the world the true faces of black gay men, whether they be gay, bi and or most importantly, on the down low. Although the first episode was heavy on sexuality, I am convinced and hopeful that the writers and producers will mix-in a lot of our day-to-day, ordinary experiences that's not framed around our sex lives.

NOAH'S ARC

NOAH's ARC is a hip, steamy, fresh, real and delightfully witty mini-series that's definitely a must see.
— *Dwight Powell,* Editor-In-Chief, Clikque Magazine

SYNOPSIS

Noah, Alex, Ricky and Chance are four friends living the gay life in Los Angeles. Noah (Darryl Stephens) is a struggling screenwriter embarking on a new love affair with newly out and much more successful screenwriter, Wade. HIV/AIDS counselor Alex (Rodney Chester) always keep it real with his clients but struggles to do the same with his anesthesiologist boyfriend, Trey (Gregory Keith). Ricky (Christian Vincent) owns a trendy and hip clothing store on Melrose and is the playboy of the group, while college professor Chance (Doug Spearman) has recently married and adopted his partner Eddie's (Jonathan Julian) three year old daughter after a world-wind courtship. Throw in Chance's amorous teaching assistant, Bryan (Johnny Smith), Ricky's hot, new store clerk, Dwayne (Nate Adams) and flamboyantly fabulous fashion designer Romeo (Dwen Curry) and you've got a recipe for delicious drama, side-splitting comedy and shocking sexuality.



IS THREE A CROWD?

Written By Daniel Vaillancourt

For four of the six years Robert and Dan have been together, they've slept with other men -- but neither has ever cheated on the other. The pair has an open relationship that works. "Never in those first couple of years could we ever imagine coming to this kind of agreement," admits Robert, 29, a restaurant manager in West Hollywood. "But we can't base a relationship -- for us -- on monogamy. If you love each other, sex on the side is just that -- sex."

Robert and Dan's situation is different from secretly having sex with other people, or having an unspoken understanding that occasional "cheating" is OK. Robert and Dan share an agreement that is largely based on communication and honesty.

"I think honesty is more important than anything," maintains Robert, who believes his relationship with Dan is healthier thanks to the guilt each avoids by refusing to be furtively adulterous. "I think we all have other attractions out there, so you might as well be honest and up-front about it."

Not that Robert thinks open relationships are for everybody. "My attitude is that whatever works for two people is the most important thing," he says. "People who criticize [open relationships] are usually the people who are dishonest and doing it behind each other's back, which is much more harmful."

What the 'Sexperts' Say

"Sexual tolerance and flexibility are some of the things that set gay men apart from straight ones," says New York City-based Daniel Wolfe, author of "Men Like Us: The GMHC Complete Guide to Gay Men's Sexual, Physical, and Emotional Well-Being." In some cases, he adds, that can mean successful, healthy, non-monogamy.

"With some exceptions, I believe sexually exclusive partnerships work best for most people," counters Betty Berzon, PhD, author of the bestselling "Permanent Partners," in her follow-up book, "The Intimacy Dance: A Guide to Long-Term Success in Gay and Lesbian Relationships." She writes: "There is a kind of affirmation that comes from being with a lover long-term, building a life, growing closer, and finding deeper levels of intimacy and new ways to please one another sexually."

Still, Berzon -- an L.A.-based activist and psychotherapist who has been counseling gay men, lesbians, and same-sex couples for decades -- understands that the above paradigm isn't suitable in all cases. "The key to making non-monogamy work, when it does," she writes, "seems to be mutually agreeing on the rules and sticking to them."

"Trouble comes when one person has a different understanding than the other about what's expected," adds Wolfe. "Try to be realistic about how much honesty is possible between you by seeing how you handle non-sexual matters. If you make up excuses or fudge on the details when you forget to bring home the dry cleaning, then it's probably not a good idea to foray into the confusing waters of non-monogamy," he says.

Making Up the Rules

"Our supposed rules are never the same person twice, no phone numbers, and discretion," reveals Robert, adding that the couple has a "don't ask, don't tell" policy concerning dalliances. "But I always ask because I always want to know. Sometimes Dan tells, but he never asks me."

The two most common rules governing open relationships are that safer sex precautions should always be taken, and that there be no emotional involvement. Here are a Top Ten list of other issues to consider:

1. Should our open relationship be "don't ask, don't tell," "say everything," or somewhere in between?
2. How intimate should outside sex be? Is mutual JO the only activity allowed? What about oral sex? Anal sex? Kissing?
3. What about three-ways? Nothing but? Never? Now and then?
4. Where can outside sex take place? Anywhere, or are recreational couplings only allowed in sex clubs, bathhouses, gym steam rooms and saunas, and rest rooms? What about in someone else's home or hotel room? In our home? In our bed?
5. Is making "sex dates" allowed, or can escapades only occur spontaneously?
6. What about overnights?
7. When is outside sex allowed? Any time, or just when one partner is out of town, on vacation, etc.? Is it OK for outside sex to interfere with planned or habitual "couple" time?
8. Is sex with mutual friends or acquaintances allowed?

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9 Is our relationship to be considered open until further discussion, or should we proceed on a case-by-case basis, discussing -- and permitting -- each "affair" to take place as opportunities present themselves?

10 How open will we be with family and friends about your open relationship?

Keep the Communication Flowing

"Once you do it, you can't go back," says Robert. Still, things happen, mistakes are made, needs change. Don't be afraid to revisit the issues -- and to reinvent the rules -- as needed.

"Every relationship that's alive requires renegotiating at times," warns Wolfe. "As for what happens when one of you falls harder than anticipated for someone else, or when something's not working, the solution returns to the bedrock of any successful coupling: daring to talk about it, and appreciating how "edgy" it can all feel. Remember, straight people provided us with lots of models for adultery, but few for genuine, open relationships.

Remember Safer Sex

One of the many benefits of a monogamous relationship is the reduced risk of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). "The more partners you have, the higher your risk for STDs. While you may only have one fuck buddy, how many does your partner have," he says. That is why it is so important you practice safer sex.

If you think you might have an STD, you owe it to your partner and yourself to get treated immediately. Don't put off going to the doctor because you are too embarrassed or worried about what your partner will think. Remember, if you have unprotected sex with your primary partner and protected sex during outside encounters, you can still get an STD.

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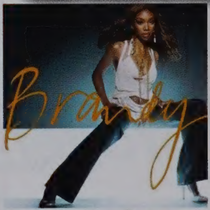

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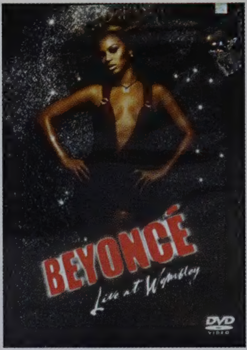
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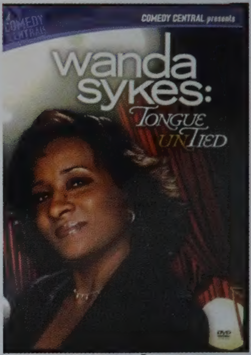
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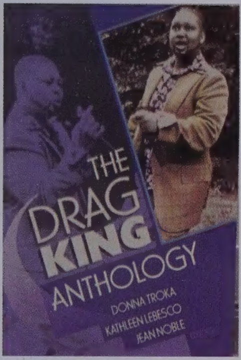
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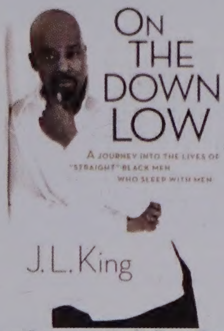
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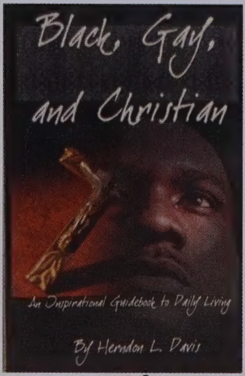
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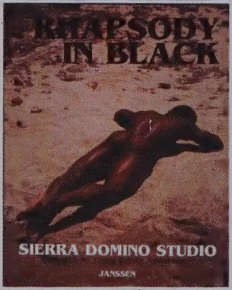
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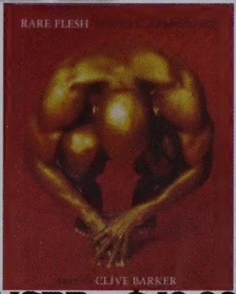
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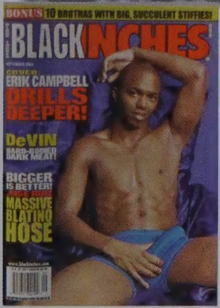
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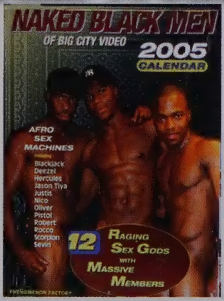
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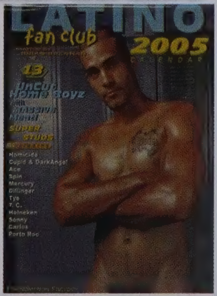
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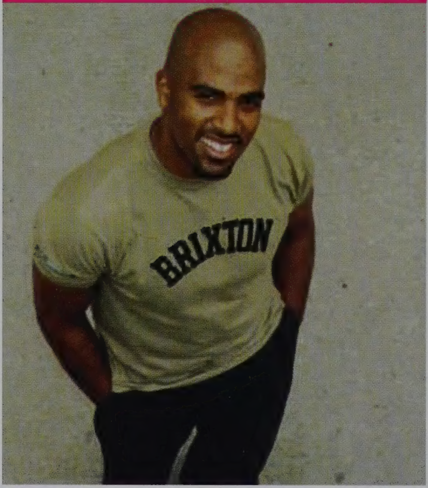
ASS REMIXED

AN INTERVIEW WITH ANTHONY ANTOINE

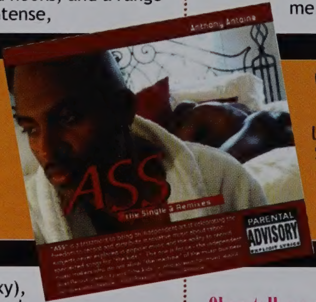
By Craig Washington

Anthony Antoine, who turned heads when he flipped pronouns with the openly gay themed "Dante's Got A Man", is back at it again with a sizzling late summer release, the delicious "Ass" single and remixes. "Ass" is a steamy tale about boy meets boy with greater booty that features some of the hottest pillow talk since Prince's "Do Me Baby." Standouts include a "Bottom or Top" remix laid on top of Missy's "Work It" and a bold Kellis remake "The Boy Milkshake Song". Anthony



Antoine sets new standards of hip hop realness by addressing love, lust and romance between men and up ending dominant attitudes about what it means to be a man. Bringing provocative lyrics, tight hip hop and house flavored hooks, and a range of delivery styles (sometimes intense, sometimes playful, always sexy), Anthony Antoine delivers the goods without compromising the music for the sake of the message.

MUSIC



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He has been either performing or producing music for over 15 years and has developed a distinctive vision and the chops to convey it. Back in the 80's the then seventeen year old moved to London where he played with Paul Hardcastle ("19") and garnered an international dance hit "Swing" with The Deff Boyz. He later released two singles including "Under Your Spell" with noted jazz artist Ronny Jordan and performed as an opening act for C&C Music Factory. Since his move to Atlanta in 1999, the Newark native achieved local celebrity status as an independent artist who also performs with Adodi Muse, the self described gay Negro ensemble. It was "Dante" (which received major play throughout the national club circuit) that distinguished Anthony Antoine as an original, one who stood apart from the rest of the hip hop/pop/r&b pack.

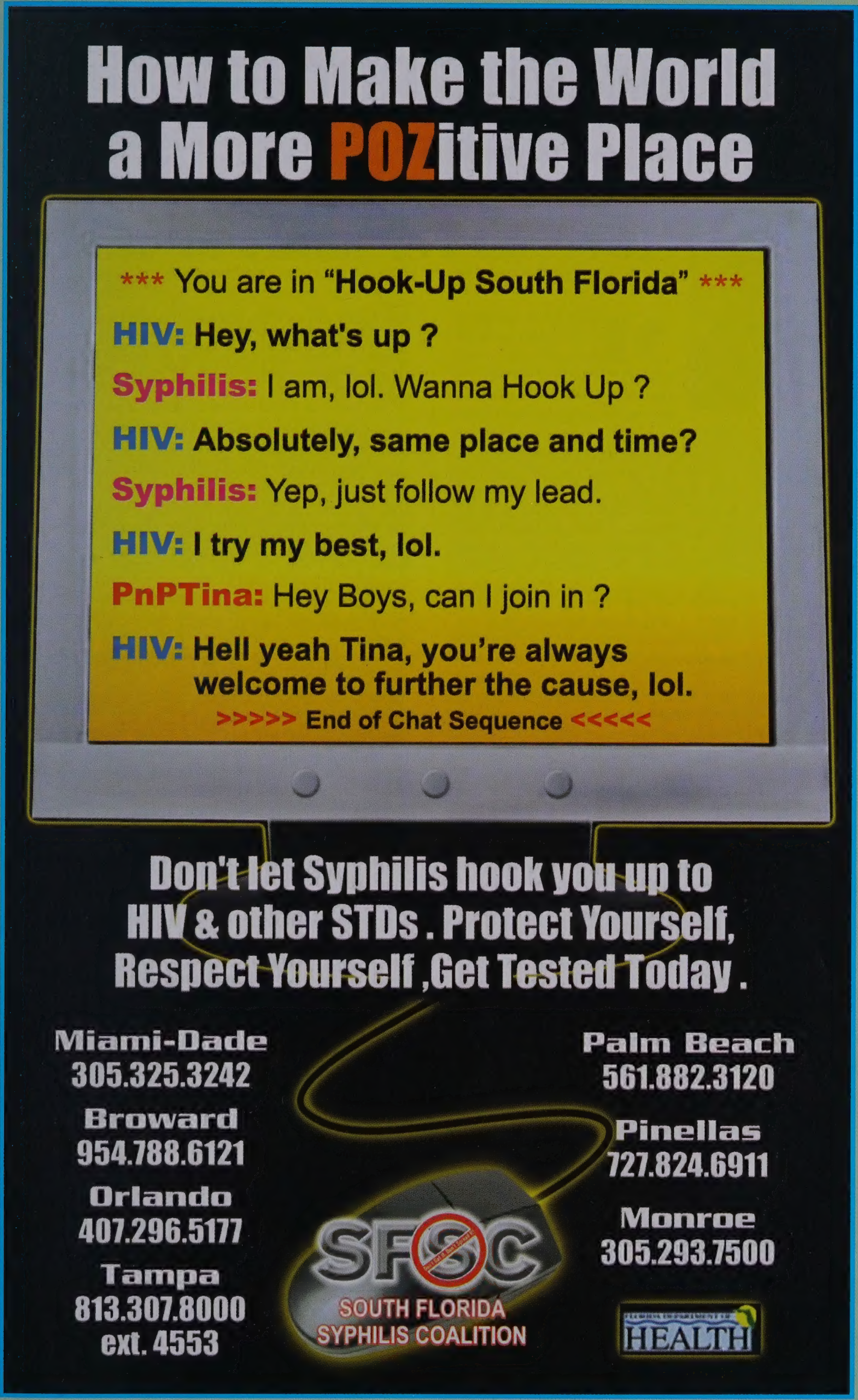
I lunched with the dangerously handsome performer to talk about his music and his message and as I anticipated he had a lot to say.

What moved you to do "Ass" (asked with a straight face)?
It's exactly what I wanted to say, I didn't filter it. It's unapologetic. A celebration of being an independent artist. Too often we don't hear our stories told over music.

One of my favorite cuts are "Don'tUEva", your response to hip hop homophobes. And "Curiosity and The Hennessy," you know you have to talk about that.
That was about giving something for the kids that love hip hop. Then hip hop is thought of as hard. As an openly gay artist, I wouldn't be expected to do that and have it carry. That I could create a song in that vein surprised me. "Curiosity and The Hennessy" is my favorite song I've ever written. It's about a man who keeps showing up at my door and says he's not gay. The excuse is the alcohol. "What's up with you and me is a secret I can keep. Call it whatever you please. It's okay with me. Blame the Hennessy"

Okay tell me about "I Got The Moves" which features baby, baby daddy and baby mama.
Vogue was 11 when we recorded it. Dana is my baby mama and my best friend. Vogue my daughter

ANTHONY CONTINUES ON PAGE 57



How to Make the World a More POZitive Place

*** You are in "**Hook-Up South Florida**" ***

HIV: **Hey, what's up ?**

Syphilis: I am, lol. Wanna Hook Up ?

HIV: **Absolutely, same place and time?**

Syphilis: Yep, just follow my lead.

HIV: **I try my best, lol.**

PnPTina: Hey Boys, can I join in ?

HIV: **Hell yeah Tina, you're always welcome to further the cause, lol.**

>>>>> **End of Chat Sequence** <<<<<

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Written By Craig Washington

BROTHER TO BROTHER

"Who can love the perfect love, never short or thin?"

Nona Hendics

Mr. Washington was lovingly raised by Anna and Leon Washington in Queens, New York and has lived in Atlanta for 11 years. His writings have been published in Clikque, Venus, Arise, Washington Blade, Southern Voice, Atlanta Voice, Atlanta Journal-Constitution, He currently serves as the Volunteer and Training Coordinator for Positive Impact, which provides mental health services for people affected by HIV. He can be reached at cwash360@cs.com.

My earliest memory is a faded picture etched on the underside of my eyelids. I can only see it when I close my eyes and concentrate. Only then will the submerged image float up to the surface and sharpen. It is then I see him as always. His arm stretched just above my head. A giant door opens before me and I walk through. Then it fades out, like a 10 second clip from a fuzzy silent movie. No matter how many times I replay it, it always ends before we get outside. My brother and I. I only know for sure that we are going somewhere together and he is holding the door for me. I figure that I must have been small and very young because the handle is much taller than me.

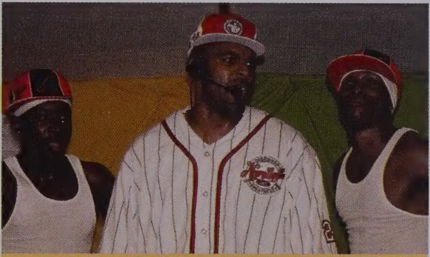
Through hindsight, I can piece together where we may have been headed. The hallway outside of our one bedroom apartment opened out to Northern Boulevard, the main street of Corona, a small Queens neighborhood where I lived the first seven years of my life. Corona was a mix of blacks, Italians, Jews, and Puerto Ricans that at least tolerated each other well. It had been a haven for black musicians since the forties, and known as the place Louis Armstrong called home. Perhaps we were on our way to Mr. Walker's store to get as many sugar daddies and yankee doodles as we could for a dollar. Or maybe we were going to Tyson's barbershop where my brother recalls occasionally seeing a tall, bespectacled redbone man they called Malcolm. On the way, we might have said hello to Steve, a one-armed short sweet dark skinned man in his fifties with the open smile of a seven year old. We would have passed Stacey, our friend Lared's mother, a broom thin young woman with full beautiful lips who talked real fast and cussed all the time regardless of her mood or situation. "How ya'll doin?" she might say, cigarette dangling from her mocha painted bottom lip. "Y'all see that damn Lared? Tell him I'mo kick his ass when he get home. Alright , 'yall be good." It was a good time to grow up in Corona. There was very little on those streets that I feared because my brother always walked with me.

I trusted him fully and completely. So when I gave him my last nickel to go to the store and get me some devil dogs, I believed him when he came back telling me that a local gang roughed him and took that nickel. I was more shocked than angry when my mother came in from work asking who left the devil dog wrapper in front of the door. I somehow knew that I was his, that Kenny more than anyone was directly responsible for me. I used to wonder why he made me join the singing groups he would form even though I could not carry a tune. Sometimes he would berate me for not singing like Michael Jackson. We'd fight and I would quit only to return the next day straining to hit notes far beyond my reach. He was a gifted singer who certainly didn't need me there, as the other group members would tell him. But I was his brother and he would have it no other way. Years later he would stand up to my father during his first tirade about my homosexuality. For what seemed like a very long time, Kenny remained silent as I nervously awaited his response. And when Dad suggested that I see a psychiatrist in order to be cured, Kenny told him to get his own head examined for not accepting reality.
He was my first guardian.

Over the years our growing differences stretched and pulled our relationship thin. As a young man, I grew to accept my sexuality and integrate that self-affirmation along with the cultural pride our parents had instilled in us both. I began writing and performing poetry that narrated my experiences and viewpoints as a gay-identified black man. Kenny married and attended his wife's church where he eventually got saved. He stopped singing secular music and started leading praise and worship choirs. Soon after I had moved to Atlanta with my partner, I noticed that he had stopped inquiring about my personal life. He would still talk about how he and his wife were doing but when I would bring up my relationship he would grow quiet or change the subject. Weeks before a planned holiday visit, he told me that he was uncomfortable with me bringing my partner because we were leading a sinful lifestyle. During another stay, he took me to their church where I sat through an encore repudiation of homosexuality. Although we later discussed how we each felt about these matters, a festering resentment had taken root. I called less frequently and only visited if our parents would be there for Thanksgiving or Christmas. I was genuinely happy to see him then as we would joke and talk about music or movies. But whenever a friend asked me about him, I would focus on the gaps and ignore the ties between us.

My mother sounded almost calm on the recorded message that informed me of his car accident. He suffered a concussion and was partially paralyzed for months. Watching him in the hospital bed, I was reminded of how easily we could have lost him. My anger toward him paled in the stark light of my brother's mortality. After he healed, our relationship has resumed its same old course, so thus had my resentment. But something had changed. (Joni Mitchell never lies.) It became difficult to harbor this hardness in my heart. I took notice of every time he neglected to ask about my personal life or my activist work. But then I would remember how he told me he loved me at the end of every phone call. One evening he called after seeing Earth, Wind & Fire on a pop documentary and within minutes we were immersed in an hour long reminiscence about the music of our youth. We were two middle-aged men harkening the golden age of R&B and praising the slim crop of "real" singers among today's artists. And so it wasn't until the next day that I realized he had not asked me any of those questions that I thought he should be asking me, that I thought he would ask if I were straight. But he did inquire about the novel that I am writing. And as always, his parting words were "love you, man".

Every now and then I want him to express more interest in different aspects of my life. I want him to ask about last month's Clikque article or my work at Positive Impact. I want him to do things that he probably will never do. But if I continue to obsess about what he cannot give, then I will miss that which he can and does give. And so it seems that I am still learning through my brother that which I did not learn from the boyfriends who tried to love me, whom I could not love as they were. A very wise woman once wrote, "Who can love the perfect love, never short or thin?" So many years later, and he is still in some way holding open doors for me. Kenny and I are brothers who share a colorful common history and have made indelible imprints on each other's sense of self. We might never have the kind of emotional intimacy that I enjoy with my closest friends. But we do have a bond that is exclusively ours and it is no less precious. Years ago, my mother told me that in order to prevent my brother from resenting me, during her pregnancy, they would tell him they would come back from the hospital with his baby. Visitors who came to see me were quickly instructed to ask him if they could hold "his" baby. I like to imagine him at 3 years old allowing adults to pick me up. It makes me feel protected and loved.



ANTHONY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 54

is clearly our child, a merge of Anthony and Dana. I'm a father. That's another aspect of me as a gay man. I'm still good friends with my baby mama even though she knows the truth about me.

Who is your audience?

My music is for the kids. Particularly black gay folks. Very few folks have had the opportunity to talk about being gay, sexuality, gay sex on a CD. Gay folks been changing pronouns in songs and applying them to their lives forever. I got emails from a brother in Montana that had gone to my website and heard my music. I didn't think there were black gay folks in Montana (laughs). I'm really pleased. The culmination is that.

How is it working with your producer?

Jimmy George of Wave Motion Sound recording studio. He's the same one that did "Dante's Got A Man." He restored my faith in heterosexual men. Here's a man who didn't know me, who regardless of what I brought to him, he's down. We work so well together. I love that it didn't matter that I wanted to do "gay music". It was good music to him, and he ran with it.

When did you start being openly gay in your music?

Going through coming out and getting comfortable with my sexuality, it made sense that I talk about it in my music. There's a saying that no one can do you like you. There's no one out doing Anthony Antoine. It really evolved as I became more involved in activism and HIV prevention.

Any Hobbies?

Sex, but that's performing too (laughs). No I spend a lot of time with my daughter. I love going to the movies and hanging with her and her friends. She's 13 with a cell phone. I'm a homebody. I love writing, watching good television, Will and Grace, Sex In The City. I love just chillin'.

What inspires you and what do you fear most?

I'm a very passionate person. People who are passionate inspire me. The kids who are passionate about HIV prevention. When they disclose their status, that's revolutionary. My greatest fear is that someone dies without fulfilling what they were supposed to do on the planet. I used to fear that my music wouldn't happen in the way I planned. I don't have that fear any more. You can't take my CDs away from me. They are done.

Want some more? Hit the website at www.anthonyantoine.com

ANGRY ALL THE TIME

Written By Scott Bogan
Clikque Magazine Senior Staff Writer

Since the last time that I have written a lot has taken place in my life. The friend that I wrote about in May passed away, I turned a year older in June, Dwight and his partner Louis showed me a fabulous time in South Beach, I attended a television pilot premier called Collegeland by Scotty Mullen that I really hope gets picked up by a network because it is very funny and smartly done. Lastly, I have returned to therapy only to discover that I am angry and my anger has taken a hold of me and doesn't seem to want to let go.

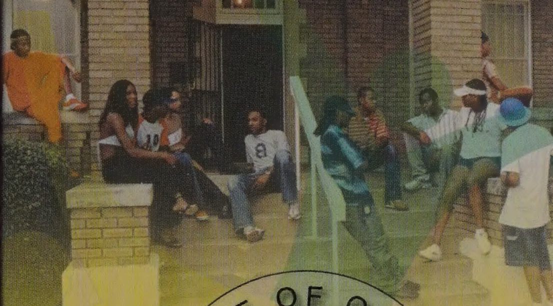
I initially returned to therapy because while at work one day I had a panic attack. I was sitting at my desk reading my email when all of a sudden my chest began to tighten and I could not catch my breath. I calmly got up and drove myself to the emergency room only to find out that I was having a panic attack. They gave me a sedative and sent me home. What was so confusing to me about this episode was that in the past when I have had panic attacks it was usually the result of me trying to control something that I had no way of controlling. For instance, the last really bad attack happened when I was in London and my flight home was delayed 7 hours and I really needed to get home. But this time there nothing that I was trying to control. Again, I was just sitting at my desk. What I have discovered through my sessions is that I am angry about so many things in the world, with my relationships, in my life in general and because I don't release the anger it has built up inside me and comes out the best way it can. This particular time it was in the form of a panic attack. When I think about it in retrospect, my anger has shown up at work, in my car, with my friends, even here in my articles. The slightest thing can/will piss me off to the tenth degree. While most people can casually dismiss it and move on, I get up on my soapbox and rant and rave and carry this anger around with me like some sort of fashion accessory. I even play out scenarios when I am alone. Reenacting situations that made me angry all over again. Never letting go. Anger is tricky though because it is not a real emotion. It is a mask for hurt or fear. And if I don't deal with the hurt or fear I can never get rid of the anger.

One of the several things that my therapist suggested that I do to release my anger is a journal. I have written in journals for years but this task was more specific.

I had to compile a list of everything that makes me angry. Here is some of my list:

- ■ I am angry because I make poor decisions for my life.
- ■ I am angry because everyone in the world seems selfish and inconsiderate.
- ■ I am angry because even though everyone seems selfish and inconsiderate they are politically correct enough to make you think they aren't.
- ■ I am angry because I try to be considerate and respectful of the world but I don't get the same back.
- ■ I am angry because I want to be happy but cannot seem to be.
- ■ I am angry because I cannot trust.
- ■ I am angry because I have pushed a lot of good decent people away that I was afraid were going to hurt me.
- ■ I am angry because my optimism about life and love is disappearing.
- ■ I am angry because my parents are the smartest people that I know but they are so judgmental and hypocritical and they cannot see it.
- ■ I am angry because I think that I am quickly becoming exactly like them.
- ■ I am angry because there are things in my life that I want to do yet I feel stuck.
- ■ I am angry because I go out on dates and think that we are having a good time and then I never hear from them again.
- ■ I am angry because all of my friends are attractive, smart, incredible people yet most of them are single.
- ■ I am angry because no matter how hard I keep trying to change, I don't think that I do.

This is just a sample of my list. The complete list is about 4 pages long and growing. This anger has a grip on me so tight that it is affecting my health. My blood pressure is elevated, at times I can't sleep and of course there are my panic attacks. I am trying to work through this but most of the time it seems so much bigger than me that I don't know that I can. All I can say right now is that I am trying to get through this. There is a song on Brandy's new album that sums up how I have been feeling lately. The words are, "Should anybody ask for me tell them I be right back in a real short time. It's just that I've lost my mind and I gotta find it. Once I hop on my train of thought I'll get back here pronto to collect myself. There's nothing you can do to help."



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BAREBACKER SEEKS LOVE FINDS TROUBLE

I'd been living in New York City for the past year jerking my life away. Literally: I must have slept with several hundred guys in the previous year, searching in each of them for some fulfillment, withdrawing into a world of 24 hour, instantly available, serial smut on the Web. I felt lonely and depressed and my doctor prescribed an anti-depressant in a well-intentioned attempt to medicate me out of my inertia. However, his best efforts failed -- dismally.

It was during this bout with depression that I became interested in receptive anal sex. Getting poked up the butt -- with anything, let alone a fully engorged, erect penis -- was never high on my list of things to do. But recently... I'd had a change of heart: like coleslaw or sushi, how do you know you don't like something unless you try it?

With this in mind, I made a date with Rick, a guy I met online and chatted with for over nine months before hooking up.

Rick is about as movie star gorgeous as any man I have ever known. There's something overwhelmingly persuasive about a man as attractive as him. It wasn't more than 15 minutes until we were in bed together and he was fucking me. Thinking back, I can't remember either of us ever mentioning condoms but I had told him ages ago that, "I [was] negative and I intend[ed] to stay that way".

Things progressed fairly rapidly from that point on -- we saw each other often, with escalating frequency. It wasn't long before sex dates had become traditional dates, incorporating walks in the park, dinners and sleep-overs. Nevertheless, even as romance blossomed, the primary focus was an incredible sexual attraction. We were irresistibly drawn to each other.

Losing myself in our connection, I indulged my fantasy of a devoted, loving relationship, one that embraces unsafe sex between HIV-negative partners as a physical manifestation of our intense emotional bond. I did NOT want to convert: I'm not a bug-chaser. But I had an erotic notion of semen in this context to the point that ingesting it -- the whole act of consuming and incorporating it -- became an irresistible impulse. And we acted on that impulse. The only

problem? We removed condoms from our equation before discussing HIV status or testing.

Instead of drawing us closer, it felt like our moment of unparalleled intimacy only drove us apart, as a dark cloud descended over our amorous tranquility. Suddenly, Rick wanted us both to test for HIV, "if we're going to do that kind of thing."

Which was fine by me, I suppose, as he had to be negative -- after all, I'd told him that I was and he'd been fucking me raw for weeks at this point. (I mean, he HAS to be negative, right?) I awaited the results with a familiar sense of undulating panic: of course I'm negative; oh my God, what about the time that...; everything's fine; dear Lord, I'm dying -- I can feel it growing inside me!

I got the all clear. Negative, undetectable viral load: the dream survives -- I think. Elated, I left word on Rick's cell phone, hoping he'd return my call shortly with equally wonderful news. And so I waited. And waited.

Finally, later in the afternoon, he rang to report his result. He was positive.

He sounded devastated as he told me that he'd spent the past few hours alone in a café, debating treatment options and pondering his fate, wracked with self- recriminations and doubt. I wanted to drop everything to be with him, but he wouldn't have it. He told me that I should leave him ("I'm no good for you"), that he'd kill himself if I were hurt (Oh my God, that's right: what about me?).

I went straight to my doctor to report Rick's test result. He crossed his eyes, breathed a deep sigh and advised me to immediately commence triple-combination Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP). However, he cautioned me that 10 days had past since Rick came inside me, well outside the 24-hour window within which PEP is believed to be effective.

I'm told the adverse side effects of HIV meds improve dramatically after the first four to six weeks. I wouldn't know, since PEP "only" lasts for one month -- an extremely expensive month if you don't have health insurance or you don't want your insurer to know about it. Within minutes of taking the first of so many hundreds of pills, every waking hour of that month was unbearably nightmarish. Apart from the chronic diarrhea and gassy bloating, my skin constantly felt like it was on fire and I was always exhausted.

Later that first night, tired and alone -- feeling abandoned in my misery -- I tried calling Rick to find out how he was coping and to update him on my news. But his phone was switched off and I was directed -- repeatedly -- straight to his voice-mail: "Call me -- please!" Waiting in vain by the phone, I crawled into bed that first Friday night and cried myself to sleep, trying to come to terms with my responsibility for my role in all of this.

It didn't help that my doctor was adamant that he speak with Rick's doctor immediately in order to better address my treatment -- something to do with geno-/phenotypes.

The following afternoon, Rick finally rang back -- "Oh my God, you sound so sad -- what's wrong?" (What's wrong?)

He assured me that everything was OK, he'd been meditating and had decided to come back to the city on Sunday -- he'd meet me at the pier dance (Gay Pride -- how intimate!). We ended up back together and I felt as if love would see us through this horror. We comforted each other as we settled into our respective drug regimens, gently trying to adjust to our new circumstances. Slowly the old rhythms returned and we resumed an approximation of our prior existence.

A few weeks later, I came across some of his medication bottles. The prescriptions had been filled a full week before we even tested, about the time he ejaculated inside me.

When I confronted him. He told me the truth. He'd known that he was positive for eight months. He just didn't know how to tell me. And he'd assumed that I had to be positive too if I let him fuck me raw -- and cum inside me. He didn't want to hurt anyone, least of all me, he said. He really did love me and was mortified by what he had done, he added. Would I ever forgive him?

I did, but things would never be the same again.

The lesson I learned is this: people, even good people, and those who say they love you, sometimes lie about really important things. Sometimes the lies are by omission and sometimes they're outright, bold-faced lies. And sometimes we even lie to ourselves.

When it comes to HIV-status and disclosure, by the time you finally get to the truth, you may have already put yourself or your loved ones at grave risk. Assumptions should never be made about the HIV status of your sexual partners. However dreamlike sex may feel, serious health risks and responsibilities accompany it.

ASK Bianca

Hey Ladies... and gentlemen,
Well, if you are reading this, it is hello gyrl. It is so nice to be back and what a beautiful summer this has been. Your girl has been enjoying the beach immensely and wishes this kind of weather would last forever. Last week, I wore my Chanel piece to the beach. The silver one with the white stripe going across the front and the boys followed me all over the shore. The gagger, was when I took them off and the men saw my newly designed voluptuousness. The beaches of North Miami will never be the same again.

Well, I am getting ready to go to Atlanta, to see some girlfriends of mine, compete in the Miss Liberty 2004 pageant, as well as catch some of the cuties on display at the Balenciaga/ Givenchy Ball. I have done enough nipping and tucking and Hotlanta will not be ready for me. Any hoo, this column is not about me. For real, it is about you lost souls who need my motherly advice despite the fact that I have no maternal instincts. So, before you start turning green with envy, here is this month's advice from the ever devastating, always beautiful bitch.
Miss Bianca Buchanan.

Dear Bianca,

I recently went to a nightclub as the guest of the bar-back and was told that he no longer works there. Here I was, in Prada and hot pink only to be told by some troll, at the door I would have to pay. I have not paid to go to a club in over 10 years and I am not about to start. So I clicked my heels twice and went back to my friends waiting to see if we were getting in for free. Should I be upset or am I over reacting? Plus the damn bar-back has not called me, to tell me he no longer works there. I am mad as hell, but more embarrassed than anything, because the girl who told me I had to pay, is a bitch I used to just swing by as I yell am on the list.
1st time off the list in New York

Dear 1st time off the list,
Wonders never cease. You were on the bar-backs guest list? Whatever happened to the DJ's guest list? When did bar-backs start having guest lists? My, how time has changed? I did some research and this is what I learned. A bar-back is usually a handsome, straight acting boy who services bartenders at the club. He normally has many friends who he sneaks into the back door but rarely is he given the use of a formal guest list. You were lucky your bar-boy had it good and had a list. My advice to you next time girl, is to aim higher. Try dating the door girl, or the owner or the DJ. They are more likely to keep their jobs and hence keep you on the list. As for the boy not calling, what makes you think he still has his metro. Maybe you should get a nose job or your teeth fixed and you will be on the A-list and wont need a bar-back to get you into any club. You stay stunned as I remain stunning.
Bianca

Dear Bianca,

I just found out that my boyfriend is not really my boyfriend, but that he is in a long term relationship with one of my co-workers over here at the exchange. I am quite annoyed and bothered because I was bragging to this bitch about how big my mans piece is, how good he uses it and the passion and positions we make love in. I went on to tell her something he really likes to do which is kinda weird and she said to me, "what is your man's name". I told her Alyn at which point she literally gagged. Then she said to me, "do you have a picture", and I went into my wallet. This bitch went into her purse and pulled out the same picture. When I woke up she was fanning me with her address book. Needless to say I left the man but she is still with him claiming the dick has been hers for years and never was mine. I am tempted to call him; cuz he had some real talent in the sack plus the dick is just like I like them, big. What should I do?
Angel in Miami

MAIL

Bianca is interested in helping you solve some of the greater mysteries of life. Write her at Clikque Magazine,
1001 North Federal HWY, Suite 365, Hallandale, FL 33009
Or email her C/O Clikque1@aol.com

Dear Angel in Hell.. I mean Miami. Sorry to hear about your tragedy because losing good dick is a travesty. My suggestion is that like a white chick you should throw a BF. That is a Bitch Fit. It is the most fetch thing to do these days. In your most Valley girl twang you call that girl and give her a piece of your mind. Then go over to her house and deliver the BF letter you wrote to her boyfriend. Go back home and wait for his call. If that does not work, in 24 hours throw another bitch fit. Go ahead, you throw a BF, as I remain beautiful.
Bianca

Dear Bianca,

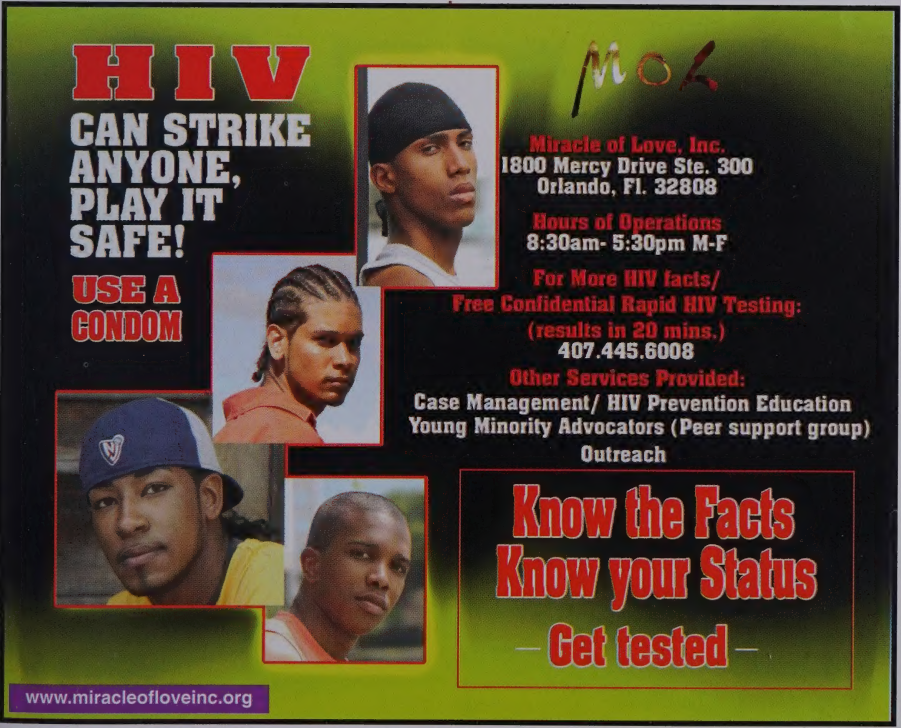
I met my boyfriend in early May. We started dating on May 23rd. He bought a house and wants me to move in with him on August 15th. Do you think it is too early for me to move in with him? I really love this man and the sex is incredible and gets better every time. Just when I think it can get no better than this he pulls another stunt. Should I move in with him or not?
Douglas, Atlanta GA

Dear Douglas,
According to the infamous they, it is too early to move in with him. They say, three months is way too short a time to know if you want to live together. However, my Judy Gretchen, says she went home with a man one night from The Sound Factory Bar (NYC), in 1994 and never went back home, but to get her stuff. That was 10 years ago and today that bitch is still driving that man's 335I BMW. She lies and says it is hers but I know better. All this to say, how soon you should move in is really up to the two of you.
Good luck girl.
Bianca

Dear Bianca,

Do you think I am cute enough to walk face at a ball? Unattached, but ready to grace the runway.

Dear Unattached,
The publisher of this rag said you were too facially challenged, for us to print your picture here. So that, is one vote against your walking face. Then I contacted the Muglers who said I must have been joking. The Balenciagas said, No mam, and even the sweet girls over at Givenchy said can she vogue?
My advice to you is to call Dr. Knott and set up an appointment for a rhino plasti, a jaw line rearrangement, a complete teeth makeover and then go see the skin people at The Dermatology Boutique. Then and only then should you attempt to walk face.
Until you heal, I remain the ever stunning, Bianca.



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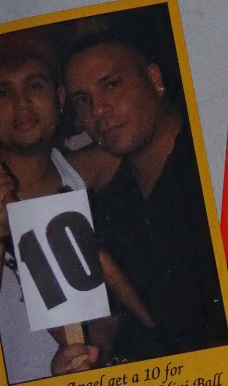


Angel get a 10 for this FABULOUS Mini-Ball @ EXIT

Florida's butch realness as she welcomes SHAQ To Miami

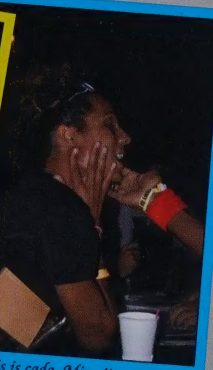
Serving Headwear at the Infiniti function.

The category was so hot we had to print this picture too.

I have the receipts somewhere, I don't know where, but I bought it!

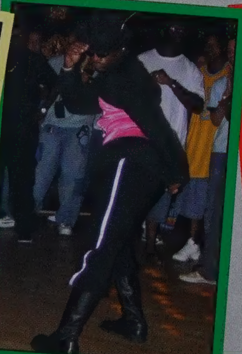
Clikque's Kennedy Davenport, laying it out for the kids.

No bags under my eyes, so all y'all who can't take me, just suffa.



This is cada. Miami's new Face. Touch this skin honey. Touch all of it.

nt to a ball, snatch a trophy, now everyone wants to know me.

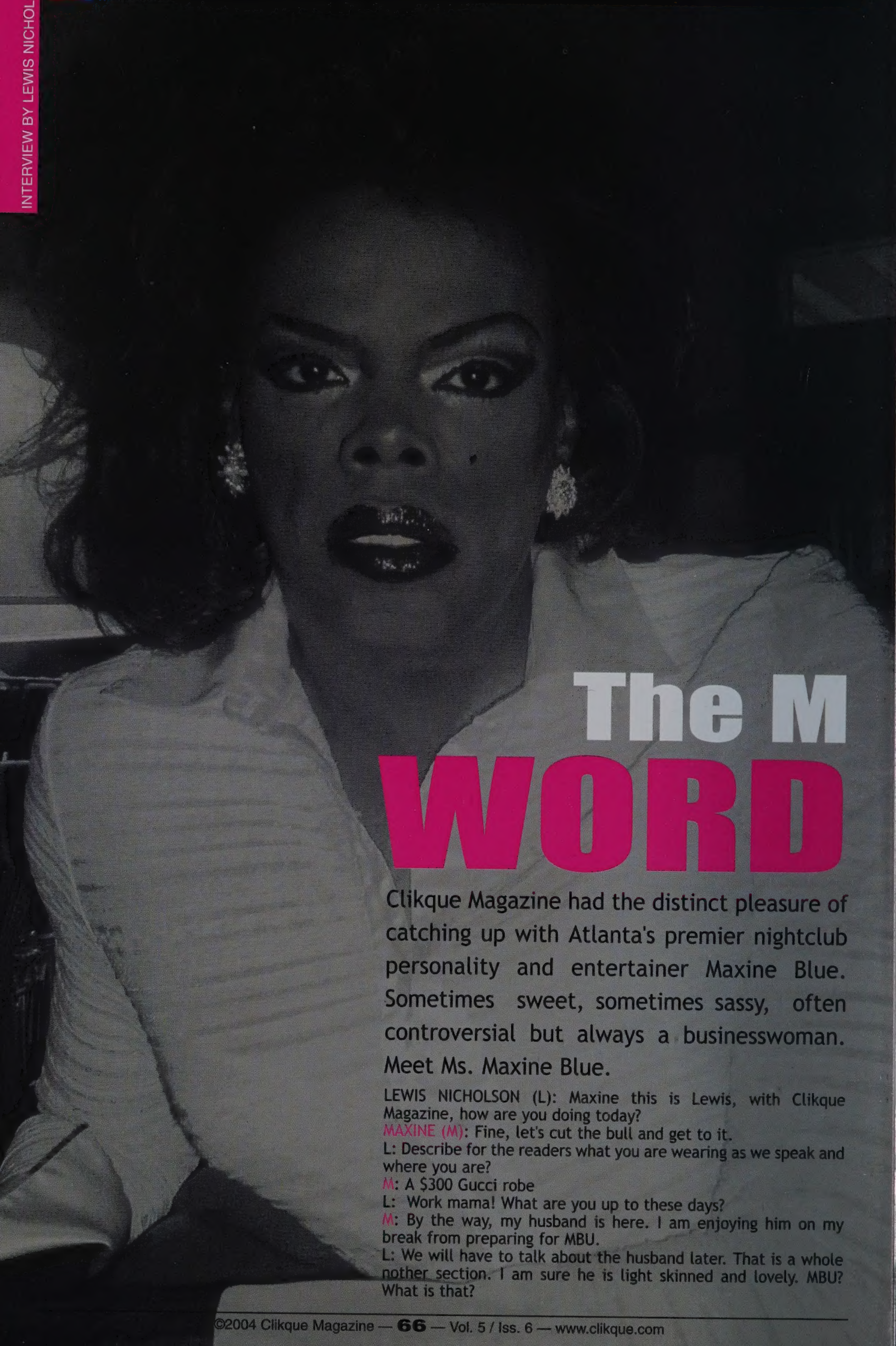


Foot and Eyewear. Was this a $1000 piece?

Eating , eating, eat it up. Walk the runway mamma!

3003, now strike that ovah pose for me.

INTERVIEW BY LEWIS NICHOLSON



The M WORD

Clikque Magazine had the distinct pleasure of catching up with Atlanta's premier nightclub personality and entertainer Maxine Blue. Sometimes sweet, sometimes sassy, often controversial but always a businesswoman. Meet Ms. Maxine Blue.

LEWIS NICHOLSON (L): Maxine this is Lewis, with Clikque Magazine, how are you doing today?
MAXINE (M): Fine, let's cut the bull and get to it.
L: Describe for the readers what you are wearing as we speak and where you are?
M: A $300 Gucci robe
L: Work mama! What are you up to these days?
M: By the way, my husband is here. I am enjoying him on my break from preparing for MBU.
L: We will have to talk about the husband later. That is a whole nother section. I am sure he is light skinned and lovely. MBU? What is that?

LADY MAXINE BLUE

ATLANTA'S # 1 MOVER & SHAKER

M: WELL YOU GOT THAT RIGHT about my light and lovely husband. MBU is Miss Black Universe.

L: No! Not Black Universe, you are going back to that?

M: That's right, the bitch is back, I figured, I do one more, so it will end where it all began.

L: You have to be kidding, do you think you can actually be the next Miss Black Universe?

M: I don't have time to kid, because time is money. Oh, I will be the next.

L: What will be different this time around than the last time you ran?

M: The teeth, the look, the brain, and the money. No longer am I a young girl that don't know shit.

L: The teeth? You got falsies, a whole plate or did you get the good shit?

M: Thanks to the fans, and the people, who go to the clubs, I got the good shit I mean implants some get tits, I got teeth.

L: You better work. Universe will not be ready for you if you get a gown to go along with the new look.

M:I am getting it from china, you know they don't play ova there.

L: They don't, but Maxine Blue has played with the kids before in some less than stellar gowns.

M: Well I guess we will just have to wait and see, wont we?

L: You have always had the talent, the Q& A, the walk, so now with the gown and new look, I feel sorry for the other girls who had their eyes on the prize.

M: Well, we all do our best, so it's whoever is hot that night, that's what a pageant is all about.

L: Yes it is. What is the difference between Maxine Blue of the Bachelors Mill as opposed to Maxine Blue of Atlanta, GA?

M: There's nothing different, I have not changed, as others do, except I now have fewer real friends.

L: Before we get off the subject of pageantry, a friend of mine asked me to find out how you really felt about the year, I think it was 1999, when you won Interview, Presentation and Q & A at Miss Liberty but was named 4th runner - up?

M: By not winning there were no expectations put on me, so it was fine, however, I won't be competing in that system anymore. I wish them the best of luck.

L: why wouldn't you do Liberty again? But Universe?

M: I don't think I'm what they are looking for, SOME ONE WHO IS DRIVEN TO REACH THE TOP and Liberty does not want that? I think MBU can help me, and I can help them. It's a business you know. I m sure they do but, as always they under- estimated Maxine, She's a winner.

L: Is it true that you got your start at a fashion show in Pyontek, Korea, while serving in the armed forces?

M: No it's not true, I got my start when I was ten in MILWAUKEE.

L: Ten huh? Do tell us about that?

M: You see, my father was very strict, so my mother always told us to pay him no attention, and to go for the gold. No matter what happened, she would say at least you tried.

L: Mom sounds like a wise woman. So what was your first experience on a stage like?

M: A queen must spread her wings and fly.

L: Were you aware that you were going to be a star when you burned the runway in Korea?

M: It was a mess, I fell on the runway, everyone laughed but then I knew what my true calling was; COMEDY. Oh yes, Rodney and me were the queens of the post. Mother Nature and Mother Superior, guess which one I was.

L: You had to be superior.

M: You got it.

L: Rodney ... well I can't put Rodney's business out there like that, but you had to be Superior. Now that you are pretty much at the top how has your life changed.

M: Well my dad came to see my show at The Metro, and told me he was proud of me and you know what? That was the best thing I ever got or heard from anyone. And by the way, I don't think I am at the top yet. I'm still living from paycheck to pay check.

L: Must be a lot of living you are doing, for it to be paycheck to paycheck. Your dad saw you in drag? That is comforting? What made you decide to go into promotions.

M: I had no choice, Jerry from Colours fired me because he wanted to control me, so it was go into promotions or go home. (I mean back to DC).

L: What has been your most rewarding experience as a promoter?

M: Being able to help those who have helped me.

L: What do you think is responsible for your success and is there anyone in the business you admire or look up to?

M: Hard work. The people are as follows
TIM JONES, NIESHA, DOMINIQUE, TRAVIS AND ROME
However now I have a whole new group of people. The young kids of Atlanta. Eric, Steve, Alley Cat and Sherry

L: Alley Cat? lol

M: My gay child, she is the current Miss Bachelor's Mill and always by my side.

L: When you decide to do a party, how do you know

MAXINE CONTINUES ON PAGE 68

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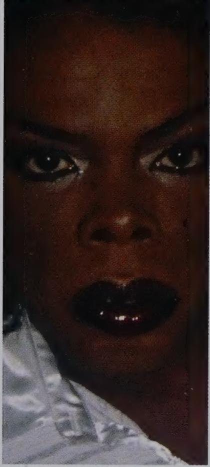
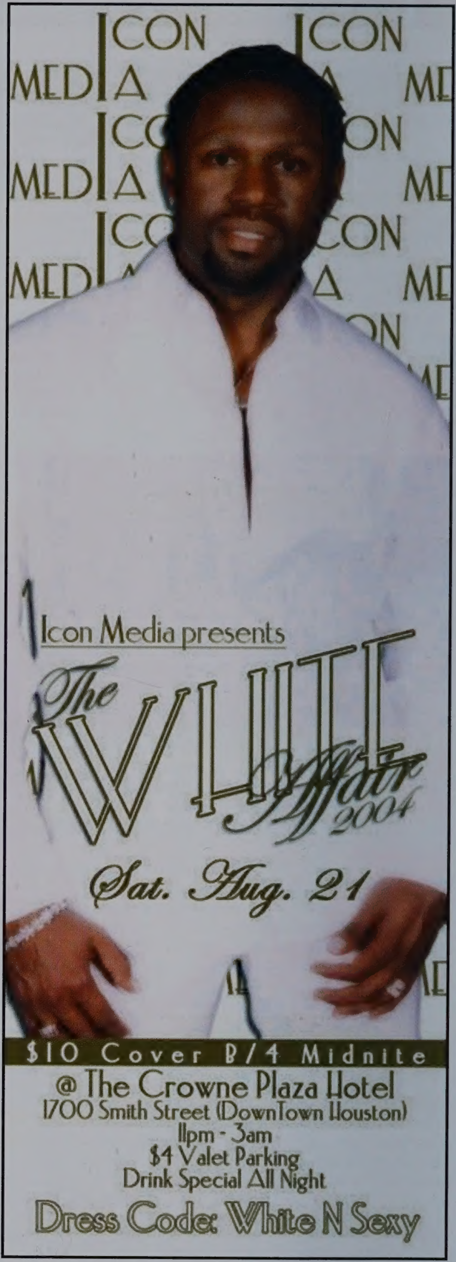


whether or not people are going to support it?
M: I don't, I just keep trying and hopefully if you build it they will come
M: Oh yeah I cant forget my Latin kids, they got me through some really hard times. Thanks Alex and Alexis.
L: Which of your promotion ventures are you most proud of?
M: My Latin night at the chaparral, they come every week and don't judge, or get jealous, they just support.
L: How does that make you feel that it is not your own that has supported you most?
M: They support too, but you know how we are.
L: How do you think we can change that in the black gay community?
M: It's been inbred from slavery, it was the only way to keep us down, divide and concur. I think we can change it by voting.
L: Speaking of voting, you were voted off at Traxx American Idol style, did they ever let you back into Traxx?
M: Oh yeah, they finally figured out I wasn't the problem, you see if they would have given me a job, I would be helping them.
L: Is it true that Atlanta has changed and that Traxx is no longer the club to be at?
M: I guess that is a matter of choice, if you want to support gay people you go to Traxx, if you want to support straight people, you go to the other place on Spring street. I go to traxx on Monday, to support the girls.
L: What is your relationship like with the folks over at 708?
M: For me personally its good, however I hear its bad for others.
L: Others like whom?
M: Well they use to let employees from all clubs get in free, however since the new folks have taken over, they no longer look out for the lowly employees of other clubs, only the big bosses (THANK GOD I'M ONE OF THE BIG BOSSES. See that's what I mean when I say slave mentality, and not taking care of one another.
L: I heard you were once the man being grabbed on, by a wife who went by the name of Mrs. Phillip. How true is that?
M: What? Please explain
L: The rumor mill has it, that you were once married to a real woman.
M: Yes I was, but I met a truck driver and the rest is history.
L: Do you have any kids and if so which on is your favorite?
M: I have about 15, Alley Cat is the favorite, then Miss Anthony.
L: Whatever happened to the Cancun Canteen?
M: Well Dominique and Mario are here and we are taking care of some things so we will have to continue this later. By the way thanks for sending that fine Eli to take my picture I think he is hot. I will call you back in about and hour when we get done
L: On more thing before you go. What is your given name and where did Maxine Blue come from?
M: My given name is Philip Fairchild. Maxine comes from En Vogue, and the last name comes from Bijion Blue my first husband
L: Really Bijon Blue? I never would have guessed! Thanks for chatting with me and have a great day.

With that Maxine ran off to take care of business. As you can see, Maxine Blue is a multifaceted businesswoman and entertainer currently residing in Atlanta. She is sharp and witty, with an acidic tongue, but those who know her, say to really know her is to love her.



Written By Lisa Knicherson

CLIKASCOPE

GETTING YOUR MONTH OFF TO A GREAT START

ARIES

The world may have done you wrong over the last year or so, but they are ready to right those wrongs. Open your arms and allow them to. Hold your hands out and receive. This month wear a hairdo on which the tiara will fit nicely as someone is ready to declare you queen. And the winner is.... You girl!

TAURUS

Normally you are a very strong willed girl, but lately you have been slacking off. Gain some control of your life and resume being the dynamic spectacle that you once were. You are a goddess so sit back and let the kids worship. Yes girl, you are so absolutely fetch.

GEMINI

The evil twin is on the lurk. Slap that bitch twice so that she will go back into hiding. Let the good sister out and all the positive things in life that you desire will be yours. Lately you have been feeling like you made some bad choices but have no fear. Everything is about to fall into place just the way you want it.

CANCER

Sugar listen, You are smart, talented and funny and even straight folks think you are way cool. Not that you really care what they think anyway. Now that the depression is over it is time for you to start making amends. Do something special for your friends , like throw them a big welcome back to your world party. Your friends never stopped thinking of you as a star so go ahead and start acting like the diva you have always been.

LEO

Good golly miss molly. You are embarking upon new adventures all of which are bound to take you places. Making money and finding love is a primary goal of yours and I am pleased to say that both are on the way. Your new love interest is the one for you. He/she is ready and willing to give you all the love and attention you deserve. Hold your head up as life could actually be worse. This summer enjoy every moment as if it was your last.

VIRGO

Finally, the project you started a long long time ago is almost done. The sense of accomplishment you will feel once it is over will make you extremely happy. Stop procrastinating and get it over with. You have other fish to fry and you could be on the horizons of becoming a major force to reckon with in your field. You have a heart of gold but you can be a tad bit controlling at times. Lighten up and live.

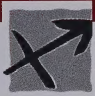
LIBRA

You take the good , you take the bad, you take them both at once you are taking a Libra. You are a bag of conflicting ammunition. Explosive yet calm. Caring yet bitchy. What on earth are we supposed to do with you guys? Well this month we ask that you either be an all out bitch or an all out Mother Theressa. Either way, the world will be a better place for it, because you are the best at whatever you chose to do.

SCORPIO

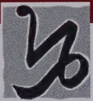
Everyone wants to be around you. Everyone wants to be in you or just be you. Let your light so shine that men can adore you. You enjoy the limelight and this is your turn to shine. You are a glammapuss so pull out the couture. Everything you attempt this month will be a success, so try something daring and outright boldface.

SAGITTARIUS



Sagittarius - Your long lost love is trying to get in touch with you. He never stopped loving you so when he finally gets in contact with you please allow him to re-enter your life. It will be as though he never left. The sex will be incredible and you will be made to feel like the woman that you are and honey you are all woman.
W-O-M-A-N!

CAPRICORN



Capricorn - Gretchen, you betta work! Yes mam. You own the world and everything is yours. Fionna got Shrek and you will get Morris if that is what you desire. Besides, your beauty will be rejuvenated and you will experience much attention from the kids. As the summer winds down you will be heating up as you take centre stage in the drama called your life. Just make sure you also take on the starring role. Too often you allow others to play the lead role in a drama written just for you.

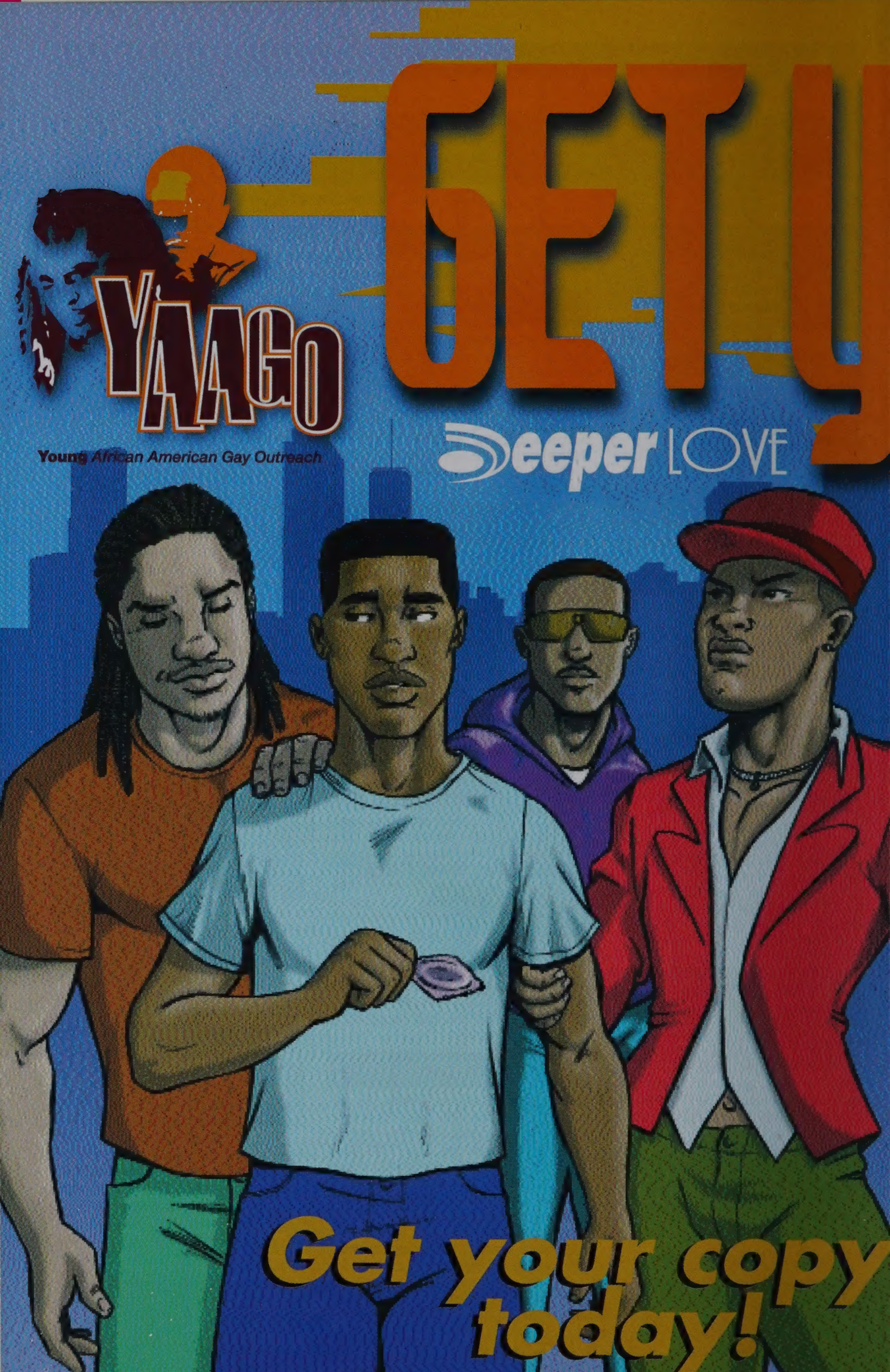
AQUARIUS

Aquarius- Stop doubting if the man is right for you. The two of you are cosmically,perfectly in tune with each other. Enjoy the remaining days of summer with him. Do all you ever dreamed of doing. Sweetie, this is your turn, take it.

PISCES

Pisces - The Lord is my shepard, I see what I want! And baby it is you. Most Pisceans are experiencing the full effect of the laws of attraction this summer. Most people find you irresistible, so if you are single glance about you because he is only an arms length away. Already hitched? Ok then , just be happy.

CHECK US OUT ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB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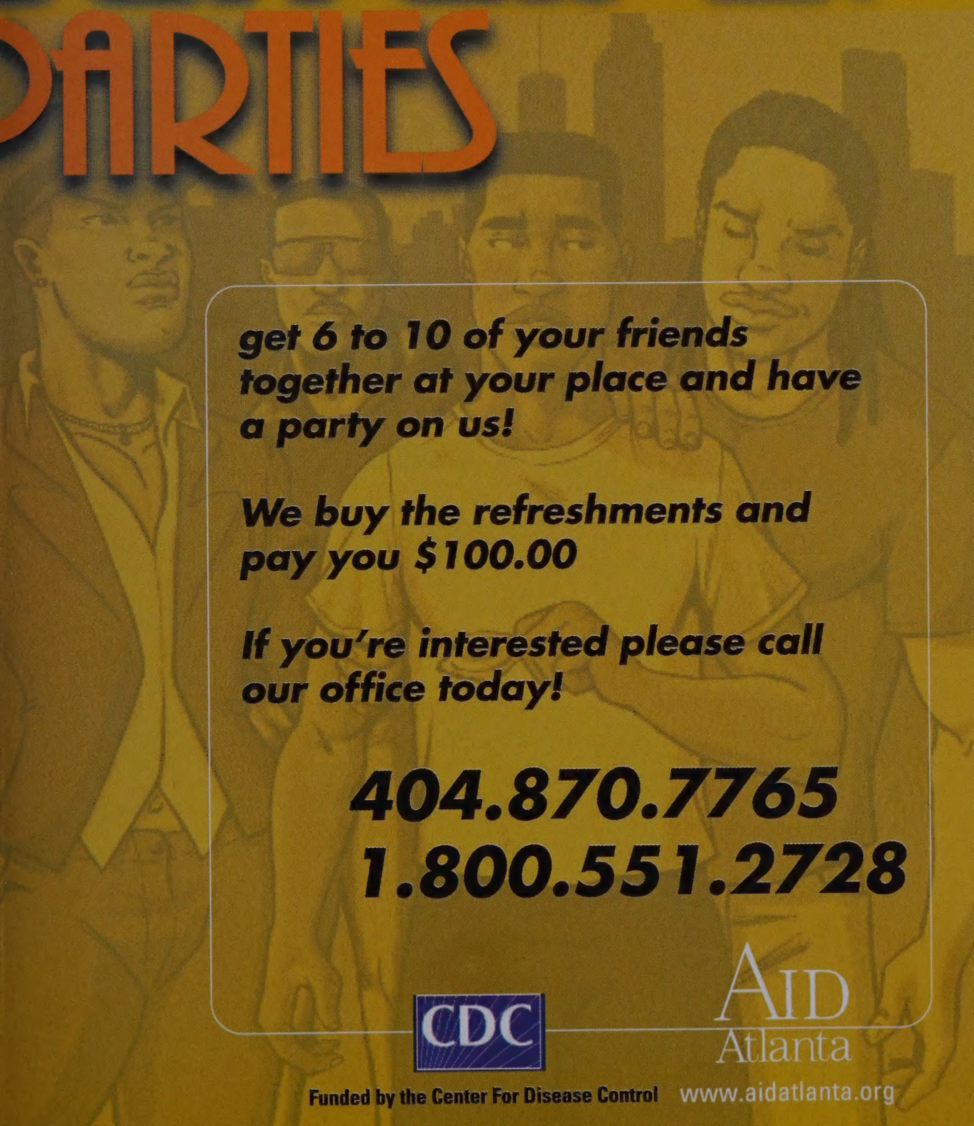

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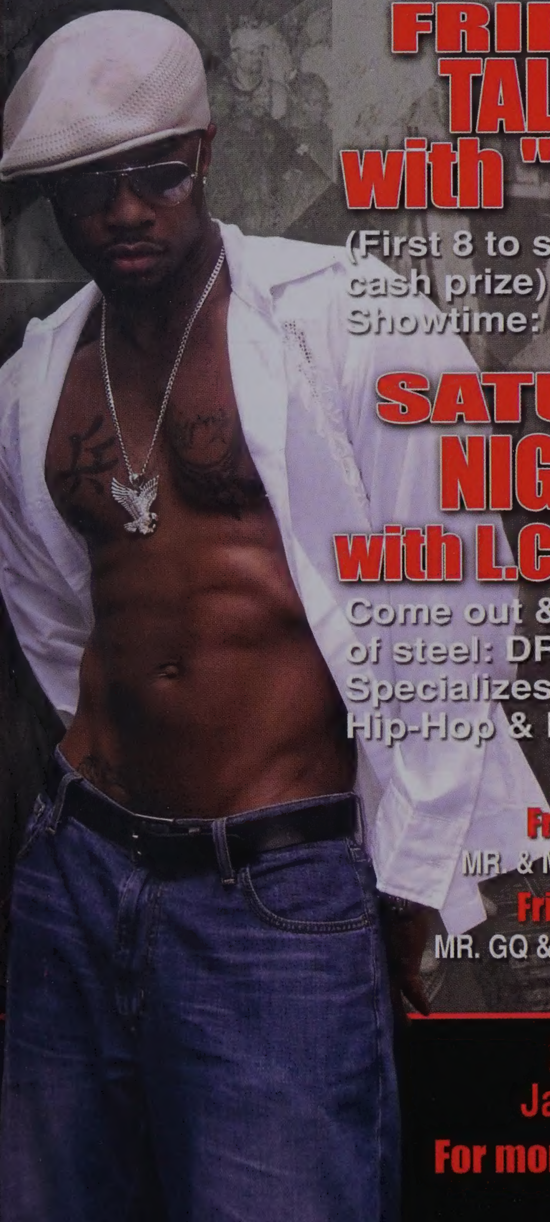

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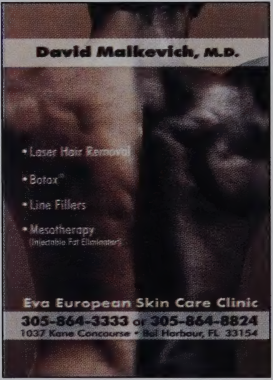
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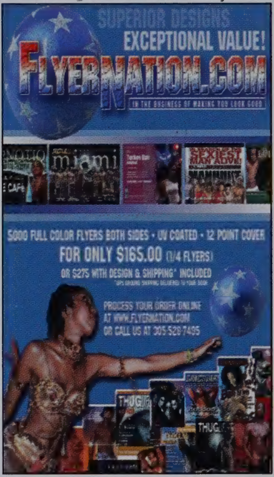
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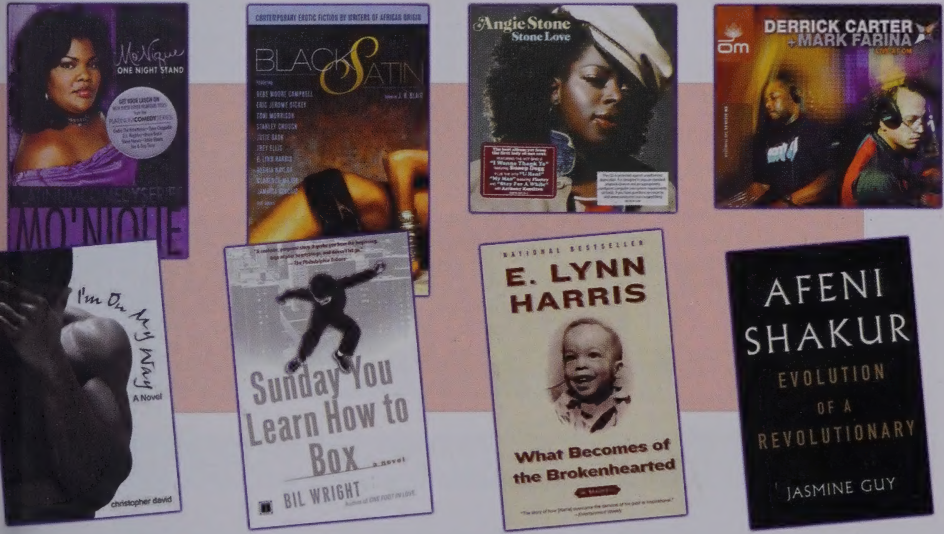
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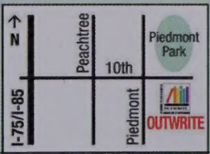
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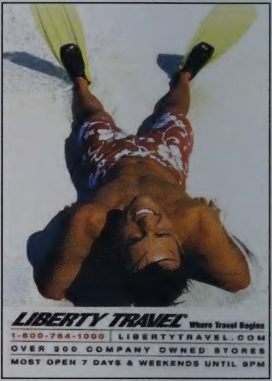

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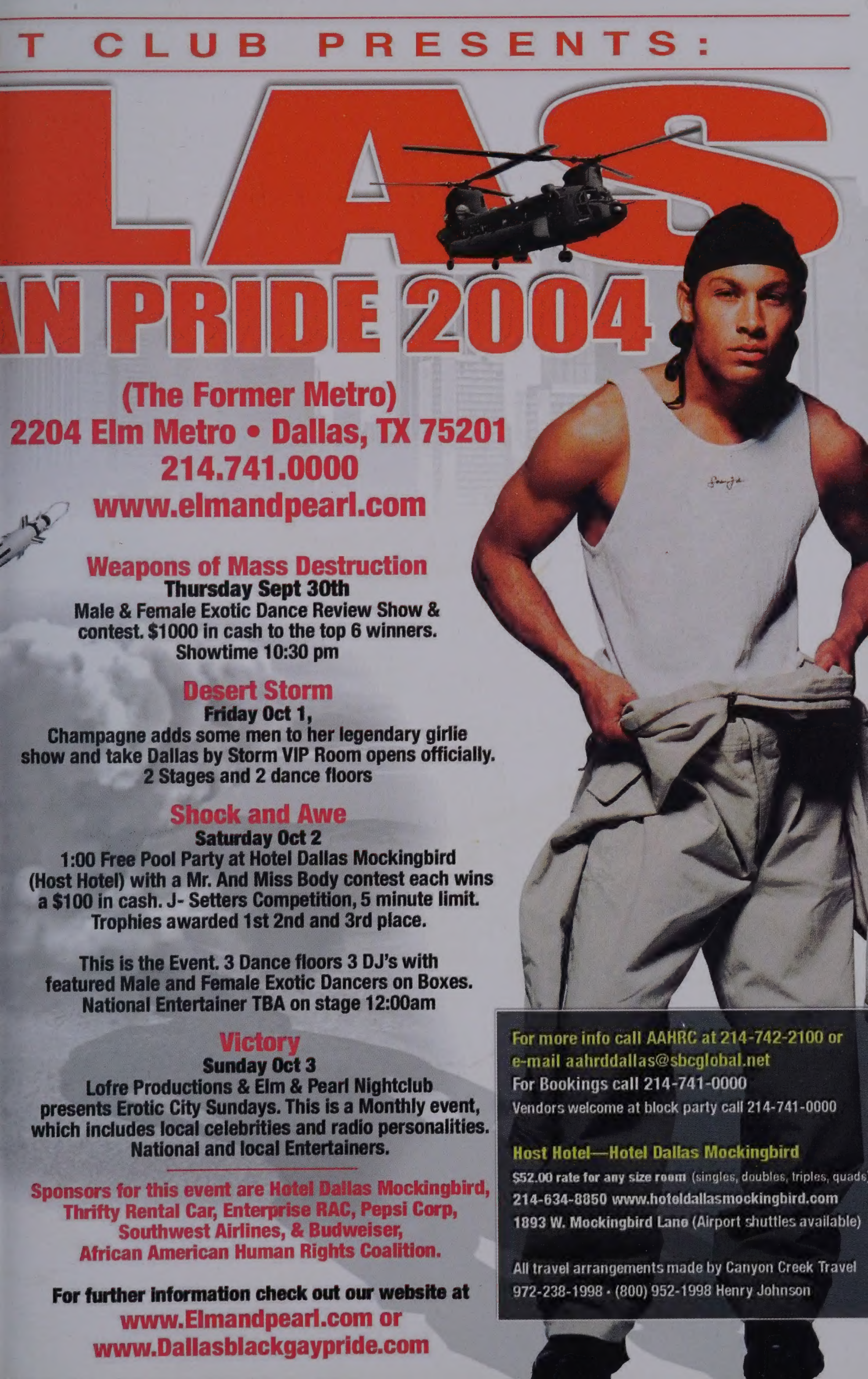

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Saturday Oct 2

1:00 Free Pool Party at Hotel Dallas Mockingbird (Host Hotel) with a Mr. And Miss Body contest each wins a $100 in cash. J- Setters Competition, 5 minute limit. Trophies awarded 1st 2nd and 3rd place.

This is the Event. 3 Dance floors 3 DJ's with featured Male and Female Exotic Dancers on Boxes. National Entertainer TBA on stage 12:00am

Victory

Sunday Oct 3

Lofre Productions & Elm & Pearl Nightclub presents Erotic City Sundays. This is a Monthly event, which includes local celebrities and radio personalities. National and local Entertainers.

Sponsors for this event are Hotel Dallas Mockingbird, Thrifty Rental Car, Enterprise RAC, Pepsi Corp, Southwest Airlines, & Budweiser, African American Human Rights Coalition.

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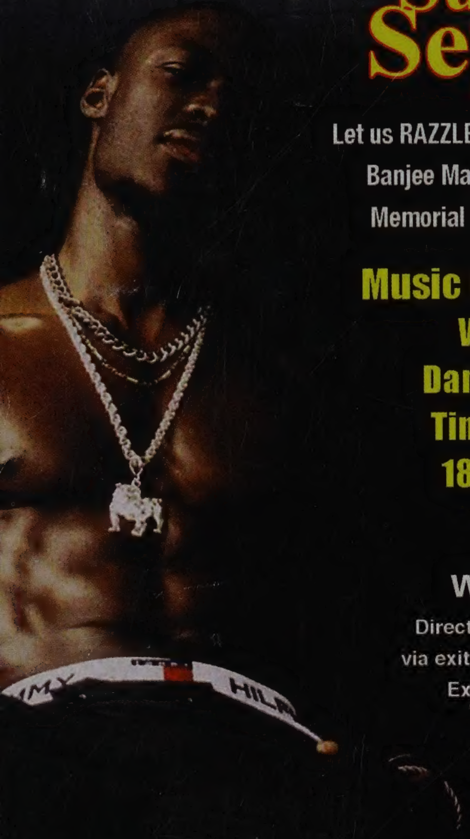

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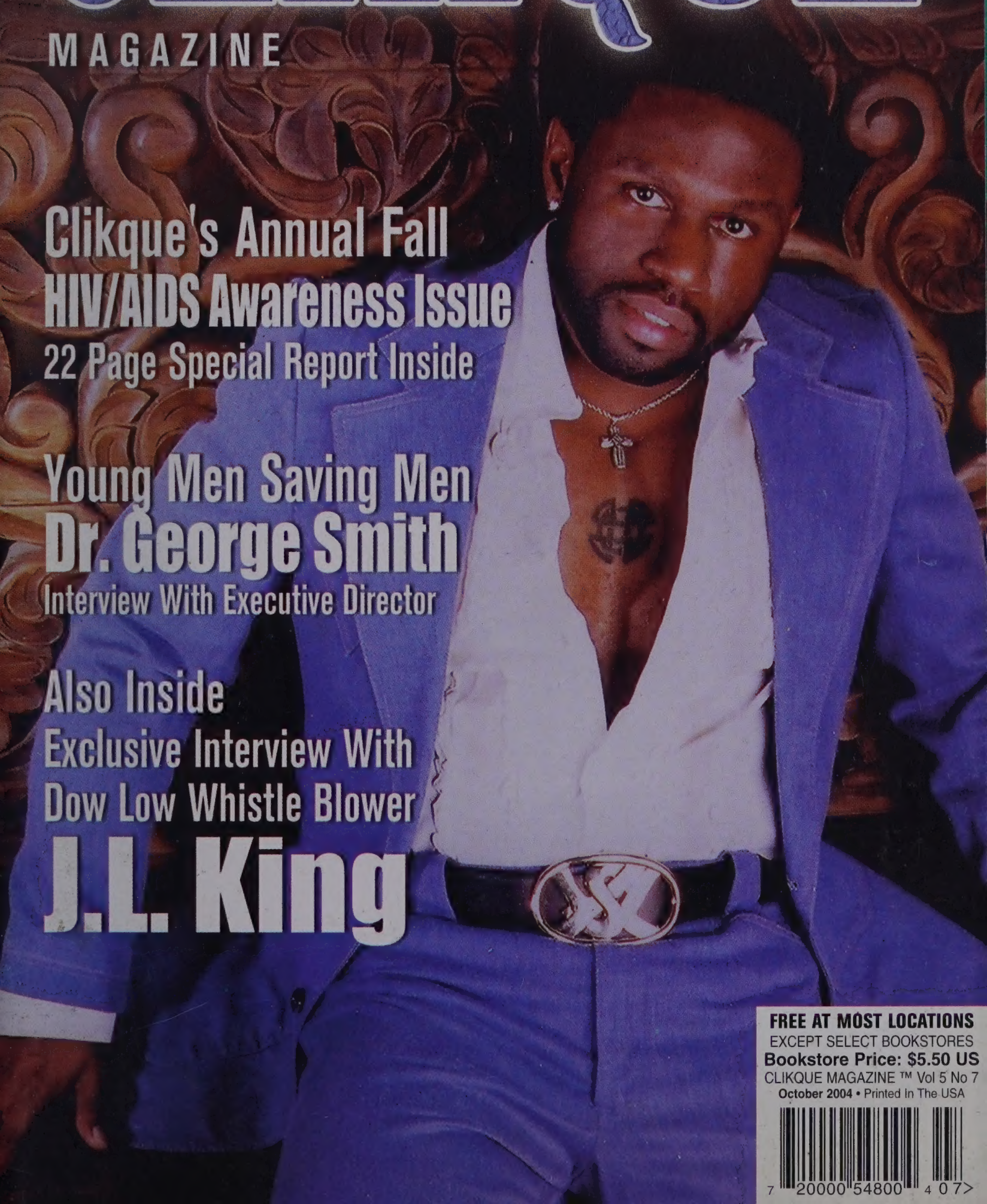

Clikque's Annual Fall HIV/AIDS Awareness Issue

22 Page Special Report Inside

Young Men Saving Men Dr. George Smith

Interview With Executive Director

Also Inside

Exclusive Interview With Dow Low Whistle Blower

J.L. King

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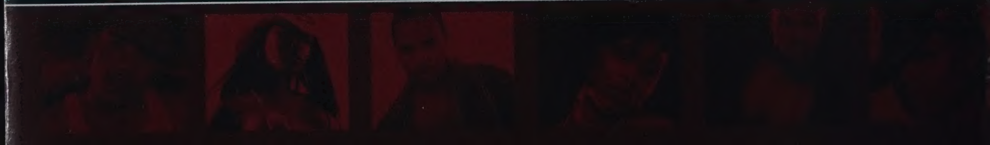

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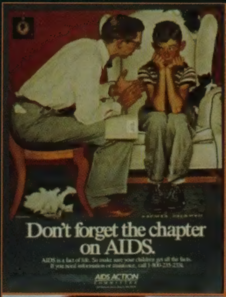
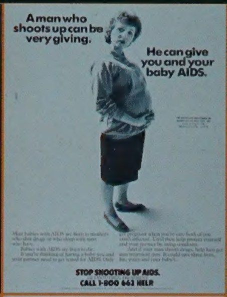
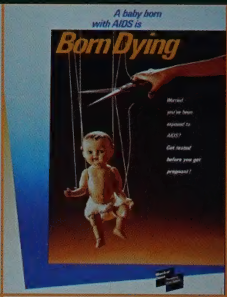
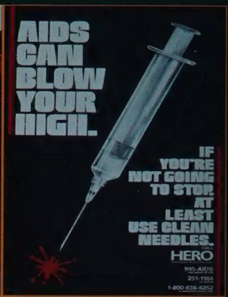
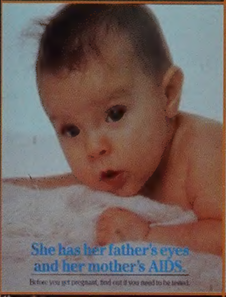
25+ Years Of HIV Prevention MessagesAnd The African-Americans Continue To Contract HIV At Alarming Rates Year After Year!

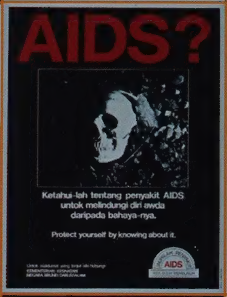

Don't forget the chapter on AIDS.
AIDS is a fact of life. So make sure your children get all the facts. If you need information or assistance, call 1-800-235-2331.
AIDS ACTION COMMITTEE

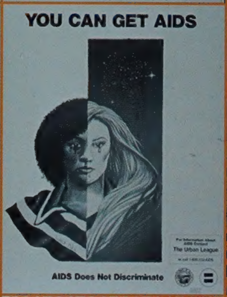

A man who shoots up can be very giving.
He can give you and your baby AIDS.
STOP SHOOTING UP AIDS.
CALL 1-800 662 HELP

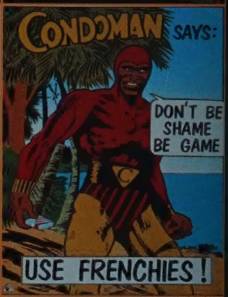

A baby born with AIDS is
Born Dying
Worried you've been exposed to AIDS? Get tested before you get pregnant!

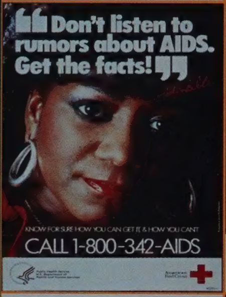

AIDS CAN BLOW YOUR HIGH.
IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO STOP AT LEAST USE CLEAN NEEDLES.
CALL
HERO
945-AIDS
251-1164
1-800-638-6252

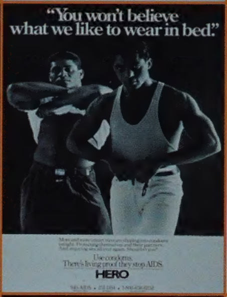

She has her father's eyes and her mother's AIDS.
Before you get pregnant, find out if you need to be tested.


AIDS?
Ketahui-lah tentang penyakit AIDS untok melindungi diri awda daripada bahaya-nya.
Protect yourself by knowing about it.
AIDS


YOU CAN GET AIDS
AIDS Does Not Discriminate
The Urban League


CONDOMAN SAYS:
DON'T BE SHAME BE GAME
USE FRENCHIES!


“Don't listen to rumors about AIDS. Get the facts!”
KNOW FOR SURE HOW YOU CAN GET IT & HOW YOU CAN'T
CALL 1-800-342-AIDS


“You won't believe what we like to wear in bed.”
Use condoms.
There's living proof they stop AIDS.
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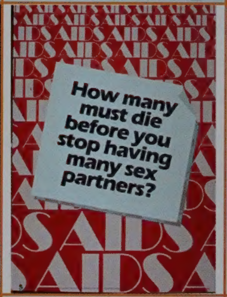
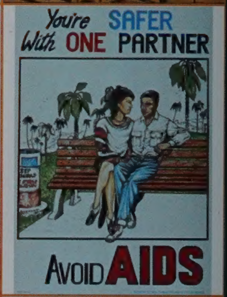
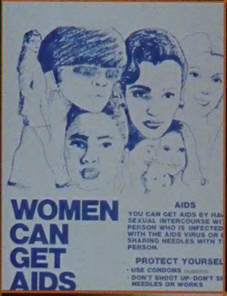
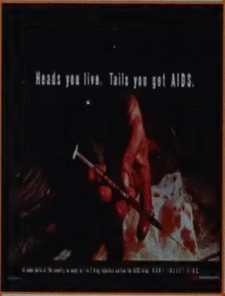
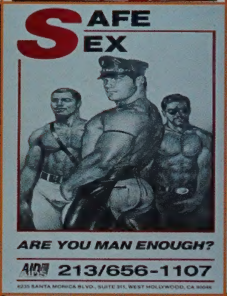
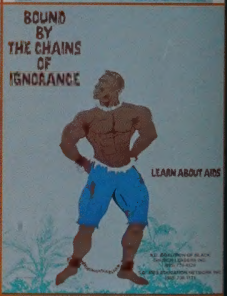

How many must die before you stop having many sex partners?
AIDS

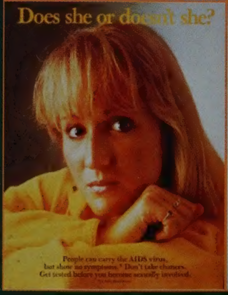

You're SAFER With ONE PARTNER
AVOID AIDS

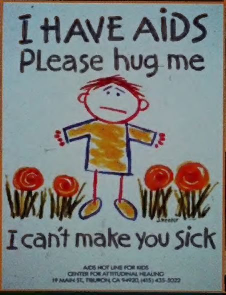

WOMEN CAN GET AIDS
AIDS
YOU CAN GET AIDS BY HAV
SEXUAL INTERCOURSE WI
PERSON WHO IS INFECTED
WITH THE AIDS VIRUS OR
SHARING NEEDLES WITH T
PERSON.
PROTECT YOURSEL
- USE CONDOMS
- DON'T SHOOT UP- DON'T SH
NEEDLES OR WORKS

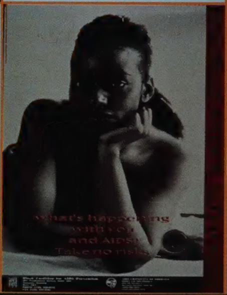

Heads you live. Tails you get AIDS.

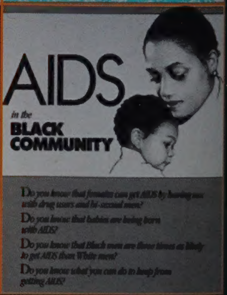

SAFE SEX
ARE YOU MAN ENOUGH?
AIDS 213/656-1107


BOUND BY THE CHAINS OF IGNORANCE
LEARN ABOUT AIDS


Does she or doesn't she?
People can carry the AIDS virus, but show no symptoms. Don't take chances. Get tested before you become sexually involved.


I HAVE AIDS Please hug me
I can't make you sick
AIDS HOT LINE FOR KIDS
CENTER FOR ATTITUDINAL HEALING
19 MAIN ST, TIBURON, CA 94920, (415) 435-5022


what's happening with you and AIDS? Take no risks.


AIDS in the BLACK COMMUNITY
Do you know that females can get AIDS by having sex with drug users and bi-sexual men?
Do you know that babies are being born with AIDS?
Do you know that Black men are three times as likely to get AIDS than White men?
Do you know what you can do to keep from getting AIDS?

EDITORIAL

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF DWIGHT POWELL

Twenty-seven years ago, white gay men in the United began showing signs of what would later be called AIDS. Two years later in 1980 there were 31 AIDS deaths. However, Black America did not take notice; they saw it as being just a white gay plague. Today, AIDS has evolved into a Black plague that impacts all communities, demographics and sexes. Years of neglect, ignorance, carelessness, and sociological deficiencies have taken a toll, that now seems almost irreversible. In this issue of Clikque, you will be bombarded with a vast amount of numbers, figures and statistics; therefore, I won't go there with this editorial. After reading this special issue of Clikque, it is my hope that you'll be more conscious of the impact of HIV and AIDS, not only on the black gay community, but also, it's ramification for unsuspecting heterosexual women and their unborn babies.

J.L. King, Arthur of *"On the Down Low: A Journey Into the Lives of "Straight" Black Men Who Sleep with Men"*, brought awareness to a subject that has been troubling me for years. I applaud him for making such a bold, brave stance, as he makes women more privy of men that this *down-low* (DL) phenomenon has a lot to do with the sharp increase in the HIV exposure rates in women and children. There are many people that would suggest that King's role in this debate is merely a financial one, however regardless of his initial intent, the outcome is truly a positive, awakening call, to both unsuspecting and naive women, and their dishonest "heterosexual" men.

As San Francisco is the hub for white gay males, Atlanta is the "super hub" for the black gay community in America. It's a city were the nation comes to party. It's also a city with probably the most bi-sexual or "down low" brothas. The late nineties witnessed a huge social change in Atlanta. Club Fusion, a gay club that opened it's doors in 1998 featured a smorgasbord of undetectable, unclockable, super masculine men... many of whom were married or dating women. I often wondered to myself, what are these guys saying to their women every Friday night... how are they able to get away so often at 2-3 o'clock in the morning? Another club, The Palace was home to thousands of "hardcore", pants hangin', oversized jersey wearin', tims trottin', raleigh-cap wearin' roughnecks. Jay-Z's "Can I Get A What, What" would be blazing upstairs on the second floor while Trina shouted, "I'm da baddest bitch" through the loud speakers on the main level. For most people, that was enough: great music, awesome drinks and a handsome crowd. But for many others... a Sunday evening at the Palace would not be complete without a little extra. So it's off to the basement... where anything and everything goes. I had been going to the Palace for more that a year, before I discovered the *Basement*... it's an area of the club that nobody really talked about. I would often see guys creeping downstairs until one evening my curiosity finally got the best of me. I grabbed my best friend's hand and motioned him to follow me downstairs to the basement. I just had to know what was going on down there. As we got downstairs and followed the narrow hallway, it got darker and darker. My friend started to chuckle and my mouth began to drop at what we initially thought was the sound of an x-rated movie. As we continued to walk towards the large, dark, cold room, I looked around for the TV that supported the sound we had been hearing, but it was not to be found... there was no TV. We had just walked into a mega sex-party, except there wasn't a cover charge, there was no door greeter, and nobody was passing free condoms or towelets either. The smell was fierce. Nobody spoke a word, only the sound of moans and groans would be heard in the silent air. I was amazed to learn that this had been going on for years right under my nose while doing my thing on the dance floor on the level above.

Because the Palace opened its doors from 5PM, everyone conveniently frequented it. From the neighborhood bums of Downtown Atlanta, to the college students of Morehouse and Clark Atlanta, and the nine-to-five daytime professionals, all could participate and have enough time to return home and begin their week on Monday. Now, upon reflecting, I cringe at the thought and certainty that many of those men went home and made love to their unsuspecting wives and girlfriends loaded with today's reality - HIV.

Since then, I learned that a lot of "nightclubs" offered "dark rooms". Also, a lot of these men frequented bathhouses and public parks at night for sex. Unfortunately, this was in an era when both Black gay men and bi-sexuals continued to see AIDS as a white gay man's problem. **Today's end-result is one that continues to devastate our black community.** Regardless of who has the greatest burden to bear for this disaster, we, self-identifying gays, bi-sexuals, and *"straight"* DL brothas must all begin to act responsibly in an attempt to prevent the spread of HIV and protect our families.

Dwight Powell

For years, individuals have utilized Clikque Magazine as a tool to address concerns and issues they deem problematic to our community. While I may not always agree with everything published in this magazine, I almost never censor the thoughts and ideas of my writers and supporters.

In the most recent issue of Clikque Magazine, we **"incorrectly"** titled an article submitted by our Sr. writer Don Sneed as an "HIV Editorial" instead of an **"op-ed"** submission to the magazine. Unfortunately, by labeling the article submitted as an "editorial" instead of an "op-ed" submission, we consequently supported all of the thoughts, ideas, and feelings of Mr. Sneed in that article. Mr. Sneed, a long-time supporter and true friend of this publication, for the most part, means well and is truly committed to stopping the spread of HIV/AIDS in the Dallas area. However, we should have used better judgment prior to allowing his last article to run "as is".

I would like to sincerely apologized to everyone that were offended as a result of the harsh, regrettable attacks waged against some individuals and agencies in the fight against HIV/AIDS. You provide an invaluable service with very little reward and pay; therefore, this sort of insensitivity is indeed inexcusable. As an entity, it's not Clikque Magazine's policy to wage attacks against anyone via the media.

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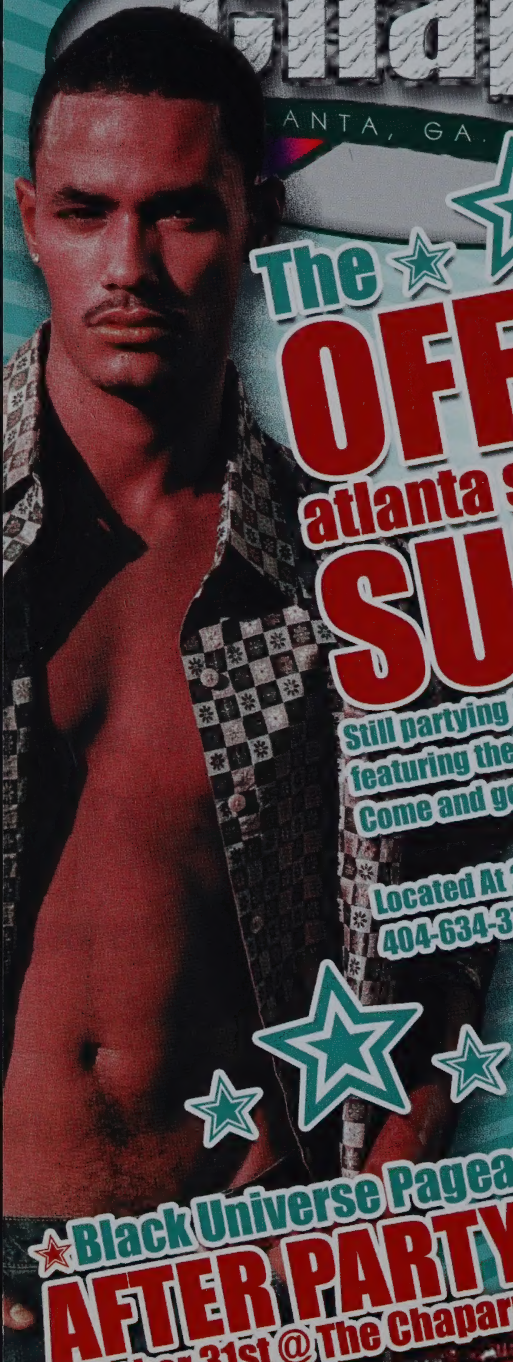

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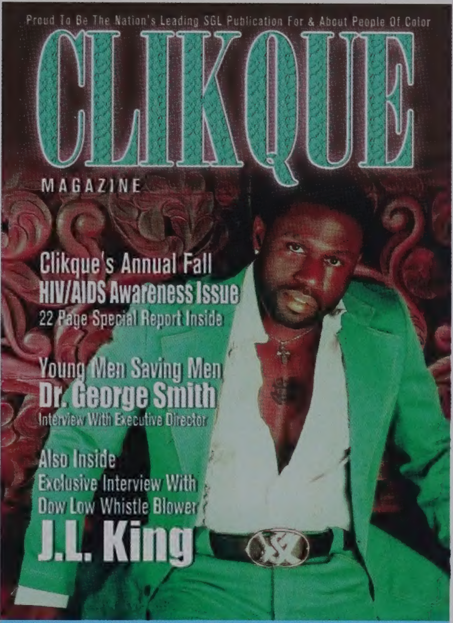
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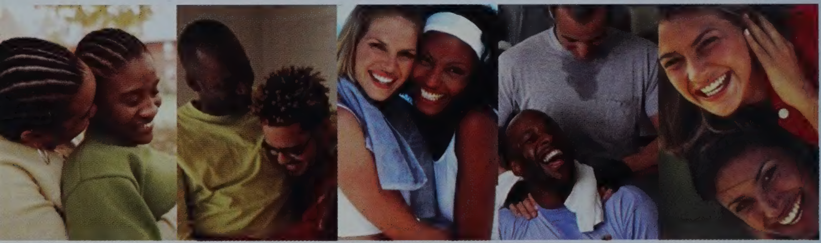

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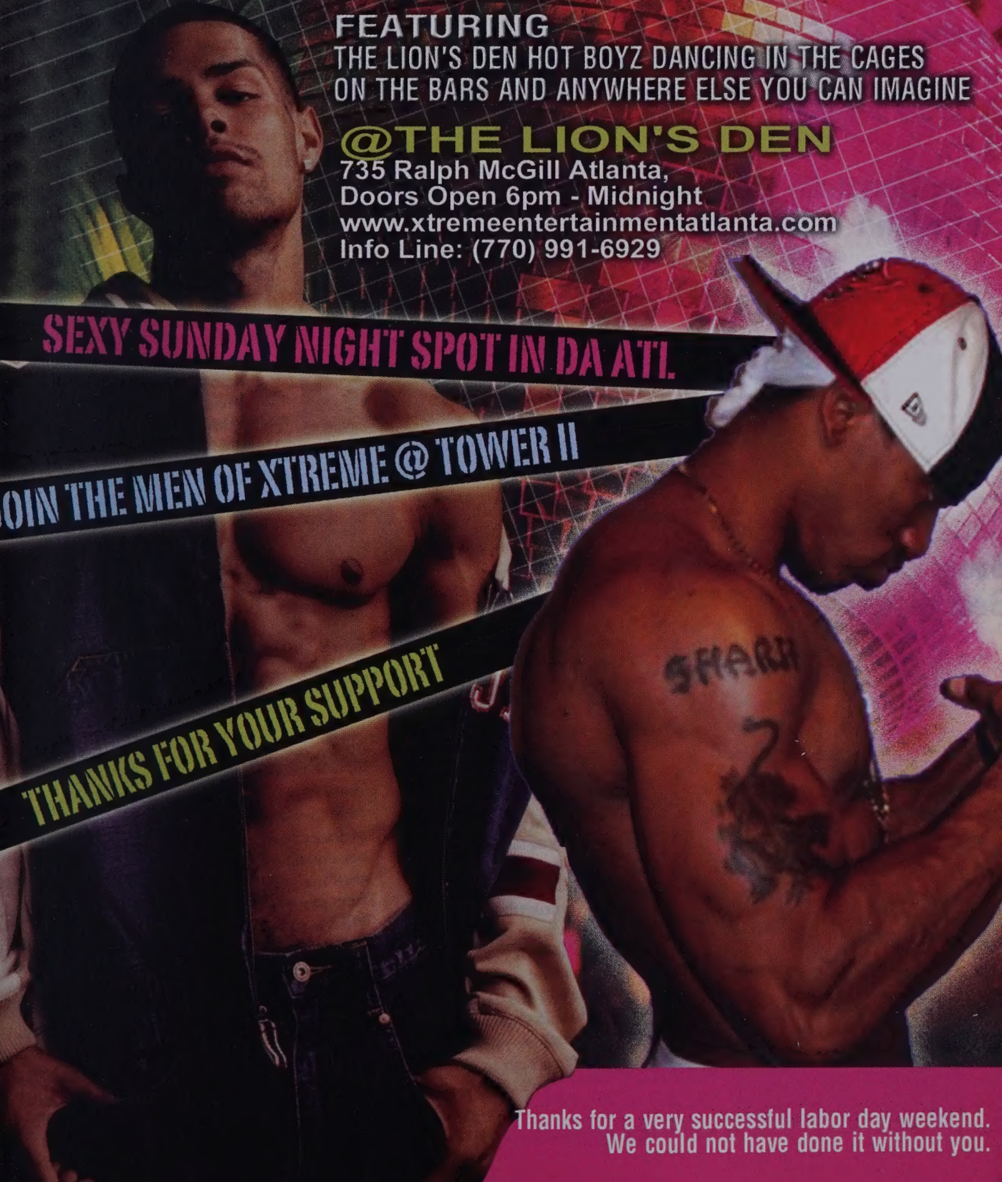


SEXY SUNDAY NIGHT SPOT IN DA ATL.

OIN THE MEN OF XTREME @ TOWER II

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

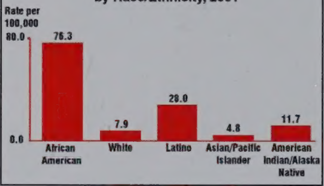
Thanks for a very successful labor day weekend.
We could not have done it without you.

HIV/AIDS: IN BLACK AMERICA

This fact sheet was prepared by Sonia Ruiz, Jennifer Kates, and Claire Oseran Pontius of the Kaiser Family Foundation. It is based on: Kaiser Family Foundation, Key Facts: African Americans and HIV/AIDS, September 2003. The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation is an independent, national health philanthropy dedicated to providing information and analysis on health issues to policymakers, the media, and the general public.

African Americans have been disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS since the epidemic's beginning and the disparity has deepened over time. African Americans represent 12% of the U.S. population but now account for more than half of all new HIV infections estimated to occur in the U.S. each year and approximately half of newly reported AIDS cases. They account for more people estimated to be living with AIDS and more deaths among persons with AIDS than any other racial/ethnic group. HIV was the number one cause of death for African Americans between the ages of 25 and 44 in 2000. The epidemic has had a disproportionate impact on different subgroups of African Americans including women, teens, children, and men who have sex with men, and the epidemic's impact varies across the country. Moreover, African Americans with HIV/AIDS may face additional barriers to accessing care than their white counterparts.

AIDS Case Rates per 100,000 Population, by Race/Ethnicity, 2001



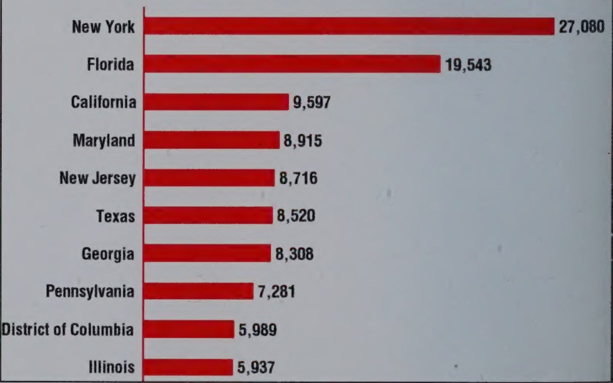
Snapshot of the HIV/AIDS Epidemic

- African Americans account for more than a third (38%) of the 816,149 AIDS cases reported since the beginning of the epidemic and about half (49%) of the 43,158 cases reported in 2001 alone. The number of AIDS cases reported among African Americans in 2001 was greater than for any other racial/ethnic group.3
- African Americans account for more than half (54%) of the 40,000 new HIV infections estimated to occur in the U.S. each year.
- As of the end of 2001, there were 151,530 African Americans estimated to be living with AIDS, or 42% of the total.
- HIV was the leading cause of death for African Americans ages 25-44 in 2000, compared to the 5th leading cause of death for whites and 4th for Latinos in this age group.
- In 2001, the AIDS case rate among African adults/adolescents was almost 10 times higher than among whites.
- More than a third of African Americans (35%) say HIV/AIDS is the most urgent health problem facing the nation, compared to 13% of whites, and African Americans are much more likely to say they are personally concerned about becoming infected (55% compared to 26% of whites). However, concern among African Americans, as well as the public overall, has been decreasing over time.

Key Trends and Current Cases

- The AIDS case rate for African American men in 2001 was 8 times that of white men (109.2 per 100,000 compared to 13.7). Among women, the AIDS case rate for African American women was almost 20 times the rate for white women.
- Although African American men still account for most new AIDS cases and HIV infections among African Americans, African American women account for a growing share. In 1991, African American women represented 22% of new AIDS cases reported among all African Americans; by 2001, African American women represented more than one third (34%) of new cases reported among all African Americans.
- While women represent a growing share of new AIDS cases overall, this trend is more pronounced within the African American population. African American women accounted for a third (34%) of newly reported AIDS cases reported among all African Americans

Number of African Americans Estimated to be Living with AIDS: Top 10 States, 2001



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by the numbers by the numbers by the numbers by the

HIV/AIDS is the numer once cause of death for African Americans between the age of 25 — 44.

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in 2001 while white women represented 15% of new AIDS cases reported among whites.3,8 Further, in 2001, African American women accounted for a much greater number of new AIDS cases than white women.

■ HIV transmission patterns among African American men vary from those of white men, although both groups are most likely to be infected through sex with other men. A greater proportion of white men are estimated to have been infected through sex with other men than African American men (73% compared to 43%). Thirty percent of African American men are estimated to have been infected through injection drug use, compared to 13% of white men; 21% of African American men are estimated to have been infected through heterosexual contact compared to 5% of white men.

■ African American women and white women are most likely to have been infected through heterosexual contact (67% of African American women and 59% of white women). Thirty percent of African American women and 38% of white women are estimated to have been infected through injection drug use.

■ Although, African American teens (ages 13-19) represent only 15% of U.S. teenagers, they accounted for almost two thirds (61%) of new AIDS cases reported among teens in 2001.10 A similar impact can be seen among African American children under the age of 13.

■ The epidemic has had a disproportionate impact on African American men who have sex with men (MSM). In a recent study in 6 major U.S. cities, almost one third (32%) of African American MSM ages 23-29 were already infected with HIV, compared to 7% of white MSM. HIV incidence among young African American MSM was also the highest of any racial/ethnic group.

■ Although AIDS cases among African Americans have been reported in every state, the impact of the epidemic is not uniformly distributed across the country. AIDS case rates per 100,000 among African Americans are highest in the eastern part of the U.S., particularly in the Northeast.

■ Estimated AIDS prevalence among African Americans is clustered in a handful of states, with 10 states accounting for 73% of African Americans estimated to be living with AIDS. Ten metropolitan areas account for nearly half (48%) of African Americans estimated to be living with AIDS.5

■ During the 1990s, important new advances in the treatment of HIV disease, coupled with prevention efforts, led to declines in the number of new AIDS cases and deaths among people with AIDS across all racial/ethnic groups. However, not all groups benefited at the same rate:

■ AIDS cases among African Americans declined by 45% between 1993 and 2001, compared to a 73% decline among whites.

■ Estimated deaths among African Americans with AIDS declined by 49% between 1993 and 2001 compared to an 80% decline for whites.

■ As with all racial/ethnic groups, the number of African Americans living with AIDS has increased largely due to treatment advances but also to the epidemic's increasing impact on minorities in the U.S. Estimated AIDS prevalence among African Americans increased by 150% between 1993 and 2001 compared to a 68% increase among whites.

OUR PEOPLE OUR PROBLEM
AFRICAN-AMRICANS
ARE MOST LIKELY TO...

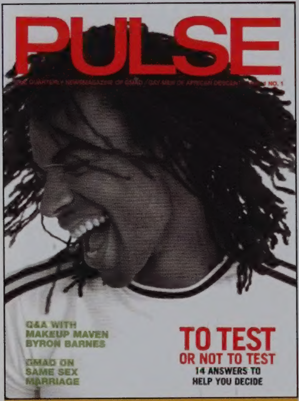
■ African Americans are more likely than other racial/ethnic groups to report ever having been tested for HIV. In 2000, more than half (58%) of African Americans reported ever having been tested for HIV, compared to 43% of the population overall.

■ However, some African Americans may be tested for HIV late in their illness—that is, diagnosed with AIDS at the time of their first HIV test or developing AIDS within one year of testing positive. A CDCstudy in 25 states found that between 1994 and 1999, more than one third (38%) of African Americans were tested late compared to 45% of whites and 48% of Latinos. However, a more recent but more limited study in 16 sites found that African Americans and Latinos were more likely to be tested late than whites (57% and 62% compared to 42%, respectively).

■ The HIV Cost and Services Utilization Study (HCSUS), a nationally representative study of people with HIV/AIDS in care in 1996, found that African Americans with HIVAIDS were more likely to be publicly insured or uninsured than their white counterparts, with over half (59%) relying on Medicaid compared to 32% of whites. About one fifth of African Americans with HIV/AIDS (22%) were uninsured compared to 17% of whites. African Americans were much less likely to be privately insured than whites (14% compared to 44%).

■ The HCSUS study found that African Americans fared more poorly on several important measures of access and quality. These differences diminished over time but were not completely eliminated. African Americans were also more likely to report postponing medical care because they lacked transportation, were too sick to go to the doctor or had other competing needs.

TO TEST OR NOT TO TEST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TO TEST OR NOT TO TEST
14 ANSWERS TO HELP YOU DECIDE

Reprinted from Pulse Magazine

By **Tokes Osubu**

Executive Director — GMAD

Recently, we asked people what was stopping them from going for an HIV test. We utilized focus group work with both G/B/MSM as well as male to female transgender women. In many ways, the results were predictable, and not very surprising.

Contrary to popular belief, some gay men have not put themselves at risk, and therefore, don't need to be tested. A large number of gay men are aware of the benefits of knowing their status and regularly go for an HIV test. Then there are those that would rather live in denial or who are just too scared to deal with the realities of being diagnosed with HIV. For several men dealing with a complex set of issues, HIV status is not prioritized as high.

Many in the community are so afraid of dealing with the stigma of testing/obtaining a positive result that they choose not to test.

According to the Young Men's Study conducted in six major cities in the U.S. The Young Men's Survey found that 12 percent of a sample of 15 to 22 year old men who have sex with men (MSM) are infected with HIV. 545 men who have sex with men, ages 15 to 22 years old, who attended public settings in, including dance clubs, businesses, and street locations.

Why Would I Want To Know?

By taking the test you are taking control of your health Early diagnosis and treatment can help you stay healthy. Having a test takes away the anxiety of not knowing If you know you are HIV positive you can take steps to protect your sexual partners from being exposed to HIV

Left untreated, HIV (and other sexually transmitted infections) can cause serious, sometimes irreversible health problems.

With the advent of OraQuick, a person can have a preliminary result within twenty minutes, significantly reducing the waiting time

Advances are being made all the time in terms of treatments, so HIV no longer has to be a death sentence

Are There Any Disadvantages To Knowing Your Status?

Some people would rather not know that they have HIV. Some feel that they wouldn't be able to cope. In truth, most people do cope with an HIV diagnosis, despite believing that they wouldn't. There are some disadvantages to having an HIV+ diagnosis:

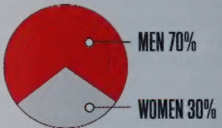
Some countries, like the USA, have laws which restrict entry to people who are HIV+. But many HIV+ people have visited the USA despite this law.

It is possible that you will experience discrimination for being HIV+. Some employers will be reluctant to employ someone who is HIV+.

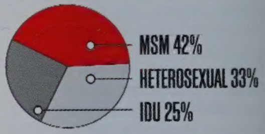
Having said that, there are many vocational options available to HIV+ people and many are completely open about their status with their employers, who are understanding and tolerant of the extra burdens an HIV+ person may have on their time.

What Happens If I Test Positive?

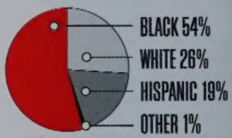
The good news is that if you are HIV+ and live in the US, you are probably better off than most places in the world. As a gay man, you are likely to get the best treatment (which is paid for by the NHS) & be supported and treated as an equal citizen, suffering less stigma or discrimination than any other country. In the year 2000, a shocking 35% of people who died of HIV-related problems in the USA, died within six months of their HIV diagnosis. (need to cite the reference) Many of these deaths could have been prevented if they had tested sooner for HIV and been able to access treatments in time for them to make a dif-



ESTIMATES OF ANNUAL NEW INFECTIONS BY GENDER, (N ≈ 40,000)



ESTIMATES OF ANNUAL NEW INFECTIONS BY RISK, (N ≈ 40,000)



ESTIMATES OF ANNUAL NEW INFECTIONS BY RACE, (N ≈ 40,000) ference. On average, it takes about ten years for people with HIV to develop symptoms, and with current treatment options, most people can expect to live long and fulfilling lives if they choose to take control and go and get tested.

Not knowing your status can be quite stressful. Finding out your status - whether it's positive or negative - can be empowering. It means the end of uncertainty, and an opportunity to make decisions regarding your lifestyle and relationships. Remember, the vast majority of gay men are HIV negative.

What Does It Mean If I Test Negative?

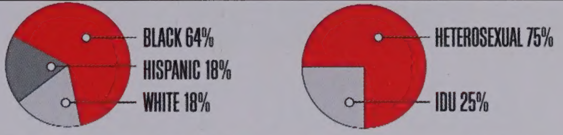
A negative test result simply means that your body has not produced antibodies to the HIV virus. This would normally mean that you do not have HIV.

However, it can take several months (average of 3 months) for your body to produce antibodies to the virus(this is called the window period), so in order to be sure that you are HIV negative, you may need to test again. During this time the test could be negative even if you do have an HIV infection and are infectious. In fact, you are most infectious during this window period before antibodies have been produced. So if you think there is a strong possibility that you have been exposed to HIV, you will need to repeat a negative test to be sure of the result. Make sure you stay away from all unsafe behaviors (i.e. sharing injection drug use equipment, intercourse without benefit of a condom).

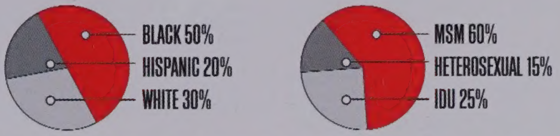
If HIV exposure has happened in the last month or so, you should tell the doctor during your pre-test counseling session. He or she will discuss the possibility of early treatment, and probably take some other blood tests which can detect HIV in your blood, if this was not included in the initial screening test used.

Knowing that you are HIV negative allows you to make informed decisions about the sex you have moving forward.

Obviously a negative result offers you no guarantees for the future. So whatever the result of the test, you need to think carefully about the sex that you have and avoid sharing needles and injecting equipment.



Estimates of Annual New Infections in Women, U.S., by Race and Risk



Estimates of Annual New Infections in Men, U.S., by Race and Risk

How Would I Know I Am HIV+?

You won't - unless you have had a test. HIV can live in the human body for over ten years without showing any symptoms. You can't tell if someone is HIV+ by the way they look, or dress, or where they go out. (Put in transmission info) If you think you may have been exposed to HIV, you should think very seriously about having a test.

What Does An HIV Test Do?

The test detects antibodies to HIV in your blood. Antibodies are produced when your body detects an infection like a virus, but it can take up to three months for your body to produce enough HIV antibodies to give a positive test result. A positive result does not mean that you have AIDS, but that you have been infected with HIV and developed antibodies.

Where Do I Get A Test?

If your are a man who identifies as gay, bisexual or just gets down with other men, you can get a confidential HIV antibody test (utilizing Orasure - results in seven days or OraQuick - preliminary result in 20 minutes). Additionally, you can access a Confidential or an Anonymous (no name required) test at any Department of Health STD clinic, located in your area

What Happens When I Go For An HIV Test?

There are a large number of clinics where you can either make an appointment or just walk in. In most cases, you will be offered pre-test counseling - where they have a chat with you about the test and make sure you know what you are doing and have thought about either result, as well as answer any questions that you may have about your own risks. Then they take oral fluid/blood - which is a 2 minute procedure which is more nerve-wracking than painful. The length of time till you get your results depends on the clinic and the testing procedure used.

How Long Will It All Take?

Many clinics now offer same-day tests, which can shorten what can be a stressful time, particularly if you are worried about the result. On the other hand you often have to wait longer for same day testing appointments, so you may end up waiting in the long run. Work out what feels most comfortable for you.

Will The Results Be Confidential?

Clinics are free (it will cost you nothing) and they are bound by law to keep your information confidential - but if you still feel nervous about giving your name, you can request an anonymous test. These test do not require you to give your name. At the time of counseling and testing, you will be given a number which you will need in order to access your results.

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HIV TREATMENT: ARE YOU READY TO START?

Get the Facts, and Make Smart Choices

WHAT IS HIV?

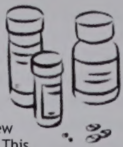
HIV stands for human immunodeficiency virus. Viruses are germs that cause people to get sick. They can cause all kinds of health problems, from the flu to chickenpox. However, HIV is the only virus that causes AIDS.

AIDS stands for acquired immune deficiency syndrome. It is very important for you to know that HIV is not the same as AIDS. A person is considered to have AIDS when he or she has a CD4 cell count (known as a T-cell count) below 200 cells/mm3, or when certain other illnesses also appear. The normal CD4 cell count for a healthy person is usually between 800 and 1,200 cells/mm3 (mm3 stands for cubic millimeter, which is equal to about one drop of blood).

The new research about HIV shows that, if people take steps to eat right, exercise, and get the treatments they need, they can stay healthier longer. Today there are many people who are living with HIV. After a person is infected with HIV, AIDS may not develop for several years.

HOW HIV WORKS

When HIV enters your body, germ-fighting blood cells called CD4 cells rush to attack. The virus attaches itself to the CD4 cells, and uses them to make copies of itself. Within a few weeks, billions of new HIV copies are produced -- and CD4 cells are killed.

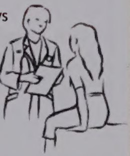


For a long time, your body is able to make new CD4 cells to fight HIV. This is why some people can have HIV for several years before they feel sick.

HIV is called a retrovirus because of the way it uses CD4 cells to make copies of itself. The medicines that are used to fight HIV are called antiretroviral drugs. They work by attacking the virus during the copying process.

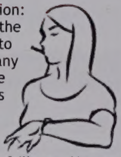
DECIDING TO FIGHT BACK

When you are feeling good, it's hard to think about taking medicine every day. But remember, there is a battle going on between your CD4 cells and the HIV in your body. If you wait until you feel sick to take action, you will have given the virus a big head start. It will be harder for you to get your health back, and some of the damage to your immune system may be hard to fix.



The following list shows how HIV disease goes through several different stages. You can see that the sooner you decide to take action, the more chances you have of staying healthier longer.

THE STAGES OF HIV INFECTION



1. Primary infection: The virus enters the body and begins to copy itself. Many people will have flu-like symptoms during this stage.
2. Asymptomatic (symptom-free): No obvious signs of illness. You may feel fine, but the virus is making billions of new copies of itself in your body.
3. Symptomatic (symptoms appear): Problems like weight loss, fever, and fatigue begin; new infections may also appear.
4. AIDS: CD4 cell count falls below 200/mm3, and you may have other illnesses, such as Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia (PCP).

Some experts think it's important to start treatment as soon as you find out that you have HIV. It is true that keeping the virus down with medicine, and building new CD4 cells by following good health habits, can help your body fight back. Talk with your doctor about what would be a good plan for you.

WHAT DO BLOOD TESTS TELL YOU?

When you were told you have HIV, your healthcare provider may have suggested that you get more tests. The two most important ones are:

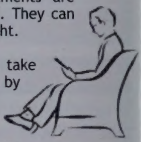
Viral load test: The results of this test tell how much virus is in your blood. The less virus you have, the better.

CD4 cell count: This test measures how many CD4 cells are in your blood. The higher your CD4 cell count, the better.

You and your healthcare team can use the results of these tests to keep track of your health and to discuss your treatment needs over time. Talk with your doctor about how often you should have these tests, and ask about other tests that might be helpful for you.

IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY!

People who treat HIV say that it's never too early to take charge of your health. Almost every day there is new information available, and new treatments are always being explored. They can all help you in your fight.



Don't wait for HIV to take control. You can start by asking your doctor about getting the tests you need, finding out what stage of HIV infection you're in, and learning what treatment choices might be good for you. Then you can decide to attack the virus while you have the most options.

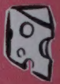
Each section in this special series is designed to help you understand a different part of the HIV story -- and how you fit into it.

How Nutrition and Exercise Help You Fight HIV

WHY IS FOOD SO IMPORTANT?

Just as your doctor prescribes certain kinds and amounts of medicine to help you fight HIV, you need to choose the right kinds and amounts for good nutrition.

Having a well-nourished body means that you can keep the weight that's right for you. It also means you'll be better able to stay healthy. And finally, eating right can actually help your HIV medicines work better, with fewer side effects.



Good Nutrition starts at the store

Choosing nutritious foods doesn't have to be confusing or expensive. While fresh foods are always good, you can save money by using canned, dried, and boxed foods. You might want to join a food co-op, or get some friends together to save money by buying in bulk.

Good nutrition takes some planning: Try using these ideas:

Eat protein foods at least two times every day.

Protein is needed to build muscle. Good protein foods are chicken, hamburger, eggs, and canned tuna. Peanut butter and cooked dried beans, peas, and lentils are also very good protein foods, and cost less than meat.

Eat fruit at least three times every day.

Fruit adds vitamins to your diet. Apples, bananas, grapes, oranges, and raisins are easy-to-eat "take-along" foods. Fruit juice is good too. Canned fruit is easy to use, and even the juice in the can may be good for you if it does not have a lot of sugar added to it.

Eat vegetables at least two times every day.

The best choices are yellow and dark green vegetables like corn, squash, carrots, collards, broccoli, and spinach -- fresh, frozen or canned. Potatoes and yams are cheap, good-tasting, filling, and good for you..

Eat bread, cereal, noodles, or rice at least four times every day.

Many grain-based foods are available in bulk at low prices. Try oatmeal, grits, pancakes, spaghetti and other noodles, and rice.

Eat dairy foods at least two times every day.

Enjoy milk, cheese, ice cream, and yogurt. Dairy foods are also good when added to other foods.

Your healthcare team can give you more information about special needs you may have. If it's hard for you to shop, or if you don't have the money to buy food, ask about community services like Meals on Wheels and other groups that can help get the nutrition you need.

Avoid "empty calories"

A candy bar has plenty of calories, but not much real nutrition. It's important to make every bite count. To add calories, add toppings and extra ingredients to the foods you enjoy. It's OK to say "yes" to sour cream, cheese, and ice cream -- but try to avoid greasy or fried foods, which are fatty and hard to digest.

Don't forget fluids

Liquids help you digest foods and help your body stay "regular." You should drink at least eight glasses of water, juice, milk, or other liquids every day. If it's hard for you to drink this amount, try taking lots of little drinks during the day.

Another kind of "healthy" food

People with HIV have to be careful while handling and preparing food because germs can grow quickly and make you sick. Here are some ways to stay safe:

- Wash your hands before and after handling food.
- Wash all fresh fruits and vegetables very well: remove peels and skins.
- Use hot, soapy water to clean cutting tools and surfaces.
- Don't eat raw or undercooked eggs and meat.
- Store food properly to prevent spoiling -- or buy only what you can use right away.

Getting stronge

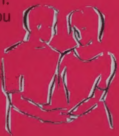
Even very mild exercise can build muscle and keep weight on. It can help you improve your appetite, and can help you feel better about yourself.

Ask your doctor about the kinds of exercise that would be safe for you. He or she may recommend ideas like these:

- Walking is natural and easy -- no special equipment needed!
- Strengthen your arms and upper body by exercising while holding a book in each hand.
- Climb stairs to strengthen your legs.

You're fighting to win

You'll be surprised how making simple changes in your diet can help you have more energy and strength. You may also find that you feel more confident about making other positive changes -- like quitting smoking or cutting back on alcohol.



Ask your healthcare team for other ways you can play an active role in helping your body fight against HIV. You're on the right track!

Each section in this special series is designed to help you understand a different part of the HIV story -- and how you fit into it.

CARING FOR YOURSELF AT HOME

Day-to-day living with HIV

HIV affects your body's ability to fight off (and recover from) different illnesses. For this reason, people who are living with HIV have to learn to take good care of themselves. This section talks about some of the most common problems that can occur, and will help you learn the danger signs that tell you it's time to call for help.

What is a symptom?

A symptom is a warning sign, like a cough or a fever. It's your body's way of saying, "Pay attention!" Many symptoms will be related to HIV disease. But some may be related to other illnesses -- or even to the side effects of the drugs you are taking.

Don't try to guess about or ignore a symptom. It's better to call your doctor on a false alarm than to ignore a growing emergency. Ask yourself these six questions; they'll help you describe your symptoms to your doctor.

Coughing can be good if it helps get mucus and fluid out of your lungs. But watch for a cough that feels or sounds different than usual, or one that keeps you from eating or sleeping. Tell your doctor if you cough up mucus that is yellow or green or has blood in it.

What to do about a cough:

- Use cough medicine suggested or prescribed by a healthcare provider.
- Moisten the air to make breathing easier. You can sit in a steamy bathroom, or simply put a pan of water in the room.
- Suck on hard candy or cough drops to moisten your mouth and throat.
- Try to get up and walk around to keep your lungs clear of fluid.

A fever is a body temperature of 101 degrees F or more. The symptoms of a fever include feeling hot, of course, but they can also include sudden chills, sweating, and aches in the muscles and joints.

What to do about a fever:

- Try to rest or sleep.
- Drink lots of liquids like water, juice, or ginger ale (no caffeine).
- Stay covered with a light blanket or a sheet (if chills begin, add more covers).
- Take a lukewarm (not cold) bath or a sponge bath.
- Call your healthcare provider when: The fever has been over 101 degrees F for more than 24 hours.

Fatigue

Some people with HIV notice that they have less energy and strength. A person with fatigue may seem not to care about things, or may be sleepy all the time. Fatigue can be caused by exercise, poor nutrition, lack of oxygen in the blood, side effects of drugs, or depression.

What to do about fatigue:

- Find the cause of the fatigue and learn how to prevent it.
- Try to provide a restful, quiet setting.
- Plan for rest periods and naps throughout the day.
- Save energy for important tasks.
- Ask for help with household chores.

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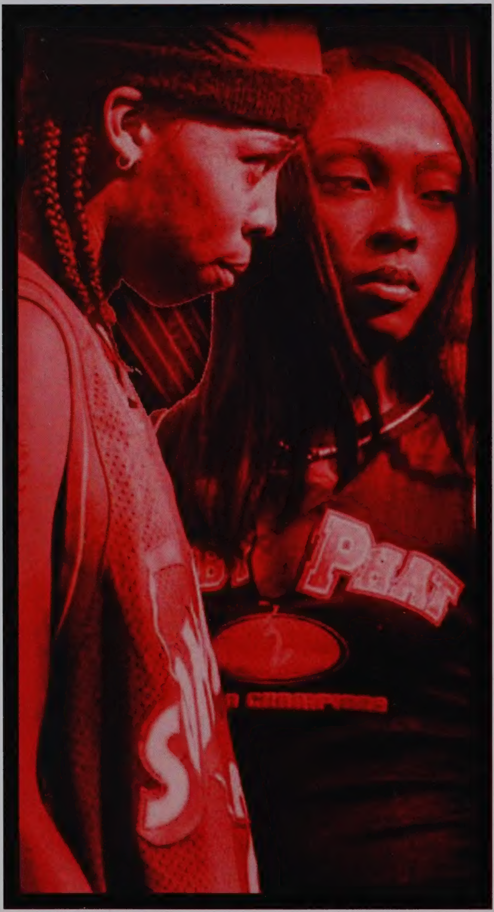
BLACK WOMEN: THE NEW FACE OF HIV/AIDS



The HIV/AIDS epidemic has taken an increasing toll on women. Nationally, the percent of women diagnosed with AIDS nearly tripled between 1986 and 2001. Women of color, particularly Non-Hispanic (NH) Black women, have been especially hard hit and represent the majority of new infections among women. Many women with HIV are low-income and most have important family responsibilities, potentially complicating the management of their illness. Research suggests that many women with HIV face limited access to the health care system and experience disparities in the receipt of care and treatment relative to men.

The fact that married men have been sleeping with other men and then returning home to their wives is nothing new. This has been going on for years. However, today, many of these men are having unprotected sex with other men and also having unprotected sex with their wives.

Despite declines in overall AIDS diagnoses, the number of female AIDS cases has actually increased. During 1991-1992, 420 women were diagnosed with AIDS, accounting for 13% of all AIDS cases. By 2001-2002, 470 women were diagnosed with AIDS, accounting for 24% of all AIDS diagnoses in that time period. C In addition to the increasing rate of reported AIDS cases among women, numbers clearly show that women are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS mortality. While every demographic group experienced a significant decline in AIDS-related mortality due to effective anti-retroviral therapies, declines were much smaller for women than they were for men.

64%

by the numbers by the numbers by the numbers by the

African-American women account for nearly 64% of HIV cases reported among women in 2001.

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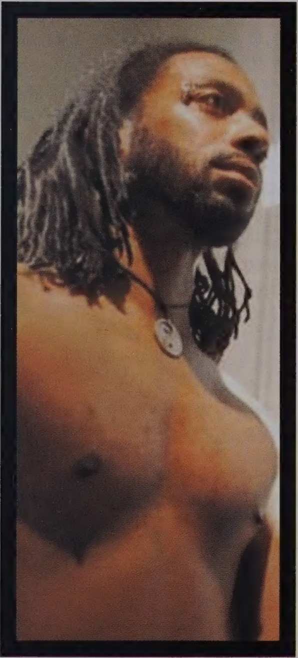
By: Kalid

# REFLECTIONS:
# TESTING HIV POSITIVE,
WAS NOT THE END OF MY WORLD;
JUST A FRESH START



As I exited the clinic's inner sanctum, a strange sensation crept over me. An indescribable feeling of displacement, a sense of vertigo as reality itself appeared to wrap and bend around me. The disturbance seemed to emanate from the words I'd just heard spoken from within the hospital's walls. As I cautiously approached the outer world, the sense of dislocation intensified with each step. So this was to be the tomb of the imperfect rasta; Khalid himself - beatified here as the martyr and catalyst of a hustlers crusade.

I was reminded of my journey as a fledgling prostitute - how absolute blood lust had coerced me to travel back nightly into the streets, selling life; seed, thus igniting a genocidal hatred of my own flesh and spirit. And now I faced the source of displacement, laid out like an unholy relic, and broken apparently in my battle between spirit and flesh. I had not thought such a thing was possible ... until the words were spoken and the blade was shattered against me, threatening to strike me down ... "Your test results came back POSITIVE!"

Thus the captive spirit inhabiting one of those thousands of nameless faces was released and binding itself to me, became my symbiotic weapon ... I became poison.

I stepped out into the world, and for the first time, I felt the true presence of this other entity - willful, ravenous, and deranged from thousands of years of imprisonment. HIV was now in command - and I, now merely it's helpless host, felt my soul being leeched to restore it's impurity.

> **I was reminded of my journey as a fledgling prostitute - how absolute blood lust had coerced me to travel back nightly into the streets, selling life; seed, thus igniting a genocidal hatred of my own flesh and spirit**

But HIV new better than to destroy it's host - and just as I neared the brink of oblivion, it released its hold on me ... deciding to lie in wait.

Several years later, as I recovered, I realized we were now bound together in a fragile alliance. HIV no longer merely my symbiotic weapon, but a sentient parasite, competing for control.

I may no longer be the man I once was - but I can re-embrace the essence of my humanity and the nobility of my soul's desire. Do what I have to do and join the fight - end this plague. All great movements require a sacrifice.

My sacrifice now is my belief system. I was already an adept, however, but because of HIV, I am learning that there are two ways of knowing, two ways of experiencing the world. I step into the past and take on the knowledge of my ancestors. As above, so below. What powerful words. They attract, they repel, they frighten. They fascinate. It's the way of my mother, my grandmother, her mother, her parents, both mother and father; forever before, as I am today. Before HIV, I could never have fathomed the true power of knowledge. To know the future; to see its paths streaming out into the infinite. HIV has become my saving grace. And as such, am I not, are we not,indivisible?
I now know, that if a single one of us stands, we are alegion. I've been awakened.

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HIV/AIDS:
CHURCHES RESPOND

As Black churchs took their own sweet time in responding to the AIDS crisis, thousands of their own parrishoners lost stuggling battles with HIV/AIDS.

They insisted that AIDS did not affect good God fearing Christians and was a disease that inflicted only homosexuals. However, there were a few churches that saw the epidemic as their problem from its onset but support for churches such as these were not forth coming. The Balm In Gilead was one such church which was an early pioneer in caring for people with AIDS.

The main focus of the Balm In Gliead HIV testing, prevention and care program is to assist people affected by the disease maintain as normal a life as possible. The program, which has been in existence for over 15 years, is one of the forerunners in the struggle against HIV and AIDS.

Located at 130 W. 42nd Street in Manhattan, the program serves hundreds of clients daily. Providing healthcare needs, food and clothing; they are very proud of the strides they have made over the years.

A large part of the work they do at Balm In Gilead is to mobilize other churches to get involved in the AIDS ministry. For many years, the Black church was in denial about the true impact of HIV on the church population. Ministers of music were dying from cancer never HIV.

According to Alberta Ware, Director

CHURCH CONTINUES ON PAGE 19

Louis Vuitton Wallet $200
Kenneth Cole Shoes $185
Night Out with "The Boys" $80
Being Yourself: Priceless
GYM Outreach Center, "A home away from home", provides G/B/T males with an open minded environment to be "Priceless".
GYM Guiding Young Men
HACS
"Bringing Communities Promise For the Future"
Houston Area HACS Community Services
713/528-5667

of Church and Community mobilization, Balm In Gilead, "I would ask ministers why they were refusing to get involved and start their own AIDS ministries, and they would say, The disease does not affect my congregation. So I had to ask how many members do you have? Then they would say 10,000 or 15,000 and my response to that would be, then your congregation has been affected by the disease."

She further went on to say, "over the last three years we have seen a tripling of the Black Church's involvement in the AIDS crisis. We suggested to the ministers that they do an alter call and not ask for people to come out about their HIV status, but ask that anyone affected by the disease come forward for prayer."

THE BALM IN GILEAD INC.

Being affected does not mean that you are positive. Your mother, your sister, your brother, your lover could be, hence you are affected by the disease, not infected.

Various ministers called back the Balm In Gilead offices to thank them for the suggestion, as the numbers of affected members was unbelievable.

> **Jesus healed the leper and spent time with the harlot. The church should be a place of compassion and love, a place to worship and not be judged.**
>
> —— Alberta Ware, Director of Church and Community mobilization, Balm In Gilead

Ware said she told them to lay aside their theological stance and go to Jesus. Jesus healed the leper and spent time with the harlot. The church should be a place of compassion and love, a place to worship and not be judged.

The Balm in Gilead is not the only church that has responded fervently to the AIDS epidemic. Joe Ratliff over at Brentwood Baptist Church in Houston, TX has an amazing program going on which includes housing. The neighbors went to court to get the plans for the building of the hospice ended. Ratliff went to bat for the people, stood his ground and today is providing a much-needed service in the city of Houston.

Ken Samuels in Atlanta, GA over at Victory Baptist church has an exceptional program as well. His church has been picketed by the religious right for comments he made about Mathew Shepard and HIV awareness from the pulpit. "They came all the way from Ohio to Atlanta to protest against Victory church," he said.

Let us not forget Reverend Meredith over at The Tabernacle Baptist Church of Love and Acceptance in mid town, Atlanta where the compassion is unimaginable. At Tabernacle not only do they provide care and love, but all are welcomed and by that we mean all.

The Black church still has a long way to go in the HIV/AIDS struggle, but they have certainly come a long way. Today some of them are even distributing condoms. The religious right remains vigilant in its fight against those doing service for the gay plague, as they still want to call it. But the black church is losing too many of its constituents to rest on its laurels any longer.

Religious Resourses:

UNITY FELLOWSHIP CHURCH (UFC)
www.ufc-usa.org
Gay and Lesbian focused network of Black churches offers community support and outreach ministries

AIDS NATIONAL INTERFAITH NETWORK (ANIN)
www.aidsfaith.com.
Offers a list of religious groups nationwide that support HIVers.

THE BALM IN GILEAD
888.225.6243 —
www.balmingilead.org
Supports and educates Black churches about HIV. Website has programs, forums, resources and more

1 IN 50

by the numbers by the numbers by the numbers by the

In the U.S., one in 50 Black men and one in 160 Black women is HIV-positive.

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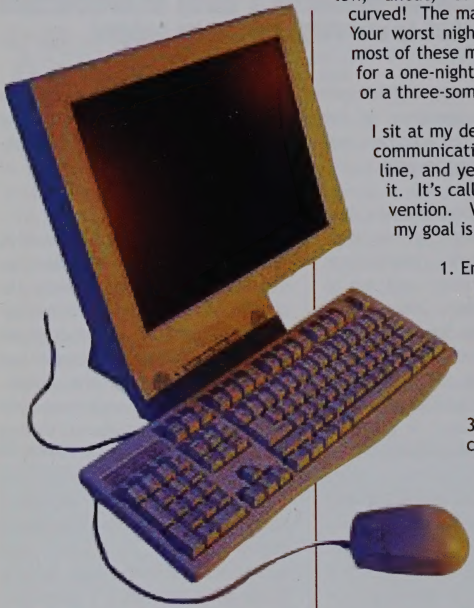
HIV/AIDS INTERVENTION

GETTING CAUGHT IN THE NET



The internet is providing a new wave of communication to the world. Sign on and you can access a variety of things to do such as shopping, gambling, education, travel reservations and yes, even sex. Today, there are literally thousands of chat-rooms that individuals surf in an attempt to connect with someone for a night of sex.

This avenue of hooking up is very popular in gay culture. Some of the most popular sites for African American men who have sex with other men are Adam-4-Adam, Men for Now, Black Planet. Go to any one of these sites and you can access photos and personal profiles of African American men who have sex with men (MSM), and are looking to make a sexual connection on-line. Openly gay, down-low, bi-sexual, bi-curious, questioning, you name it, you'll find it on the net. Tall, short, muscles, slim! Masculine, queen, thug, fem, drag-queen, etc.! Hung low, uncut, cut, thick, skinny, curved! The man of your dreams! Your worst nightmare! Many and most of these men are advertising for a one-night stand, sex parties or a three-some.

I sit at my desk on a daily basis communicating with guys on line, and yes, I get paid to do it. It's called chat-line intervention. When I am on line my goal is to—

1. Encourage people to be safer in their sexual activity;
2. Get our target audience to get tested and know their status;
3. Invite guys to come to the Drop-In Center for one of our YMSM Task Force meetings or interventions.

When online I do get the "What do you all do there?" question. I also often get asked if I am gay. I have found that a guy will put up a wall if I invite him to stop by a HIV/AIDS agency too soon in the conversation. This happens normally because some guys online aren't out to their families, at work or at school and are afraid that someone they know will see them and drop the dime on them. Others have bought into the false rhetoric that the Drop-In Center is for people who are HIV+ and they don't want anyone to think that they are positive. In an effort to take away the mystery created by the net, I encourage guys to call me at the Drop-In Center. I have found that if I can get them to call I can usually talk to them long enough to convince them to stop by for a visit.

Two questions come to my mind while I am providing chat-line intervention. First, are these anonymous hook-ups a primary reason for the rise in HIV infection in the African American Gay community, particularly males between the ages of 13 and 24?

I encounter young men daily who frequently participate in sexual encounters with men they hook up with on the net. These young men say "yes" to all of the right questions. "Yes", I use condoms every time I am the insertive partner in anal sex. "Yes" I use condoms every time I am the receptive partner in anal sex. If unprotected anal penetration is the most likely way that HIV is transmitted during male to male sex, and if so many people are indeed using condoms "every time", then why do the rates of infection among African American MSM continue to rise? Is somebody not telling the truth?

Secondly, is this net that many are getting caught up in setting the stage for the de-socialization of our Black men who love Black men? Even when one hits the club scene for the sole purpose of hooking up, there is a need for some conversation. You can count the times that you have made a connection with a fine brother and found yourself trying to scream louder than the music and the crowd and while trying to give off that "come hither" voice. Words had to be exchanged. A conversation had to take place. You didn't just knock him in the head and drag him off to the back seat of your car and have your way with him.

Call me old fashioned, but doesn't the net take away the opportunity and the need for conversation. When on line we type just enough to communicate how we want to get it, the meeting place and we make a mad dash for the car. Once we see him and the cakes look just like the ones in his picture on line there is not much talking. Not even a question about HIV status. We just get busy! No questions asked. No real names, just screen names. Oh, "Slimsexiboi!" Give it to me "Hunglikamonsta!"
Sure I sound a bit sarcastic, however, I need you to get the point. Let's not let conversation be an ancient art in our lives. If we see him in the store

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the next day we should at least be able to introduce him to our friends by his real name and not his screen name or the size of his piece. The less we converse, the less we know. The less we know the more likely we are to experience trouble in the future because of a one night stand in our past. And brothers, its time out for us not knowing enough about the men who are bending us over or bootin' it up to us.

Seamen go out daily and drop their nets and lines into bodies of water that are teeming with the daily special. The haunting thing for the creature caught in the net is the reality of impending death. Don't get caught up in the net! Think and act wisely and responsibly. Getting caught up in the net could cost you your life.

ResourcesResourcesResources

Are You In Need Of Support or Treatment. Help is just a phone call or a click away.

Community Based Organizations At Work For You

ATLANTA, GA.

National AIDS Education Services For Minorities
www.naesmonline.org
404.691.8880
2140 Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr

CHICAGO, IL

South Side Help Center
www.southsidehelp.org
773-684-5711
10420 S Halsted Street

CLEVELAND, OH.

AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland
www.atfgc.org
216-621-0766
2728 Euclid Ave, Ste 400

DALLAS, TX.

Renaissance III
www.renaissance3.com
214-428-6227
2606 Martin Luther King Blvd

DETROIT, MI

Men of Color, INC.
313-543-7000
21543 Grand River

HOUSTON, TX.

Donald R. Watkins Memorial Foundation
713-526-1379
4900 Fannin

Houston Area Community Services
3730 Kirby Drive Suite 820
713-526-0555

MEMPHIS, TN

New Directions, Inc
901-346-5497
4466 Elvis Presley Blvd, Suite 310

MIAMI, FL

Care Resourse
www.careresource.org
305-576-1234
3510 Biscayne Blvd Ste 300

South Beach AIDS Project
www.sobeaids.org
305-532-1033
306 Lincoln Road,Sobe

Village South
www.villagesouth.com
(305) 573-DRUG
3180 Biscayne Boulevard

NASHVILLE, TN

Nashville Cares
www.nashvillecares.org
615-259-4866
209 10th Ave South, Ste 160

NEW ORLEANS, LA

Brotherhood Inc.
www.brotherhoodinc.org
504-566-7955
1661 Canal St. #3230

NEW YORK, NY

Gay Men Of African Descent (GMAD)
www.gmad.org
212-828-1697
103 E. 125th StreetSuite 503

People of Color In Crisis
www.pocc.org
718-857-5900
468 Bergen Street, Brooklyn

ORLANDO, FL

Miracle Of Love
www.miracleofloveinc.org
407-445-6008
1800 Mercy Drive, #300

ST. LOUIS, MO

REACH, St. Louis Inc.
216-621-0766
625 N Euclid Ave

WASHINGTON, DC

Us Helping Us
www.ushelpingus.com
202-546-8200
811 L Street, SE

Now That I KNOW

> “I am HIV negative and I plan on remaining that way.
>
> Even if I was infected, I know that help is just around the corner. With the many advances in the fight against AIDS, I know that there are life sustaining drugs that's allowing HIV+ individuals to maintain longer, healthy lives.
>
> So many people my age are taking chances with their lives. ***Knowing my status gives me peace of mind.***”
>
> *Darius, Dallas TX.*

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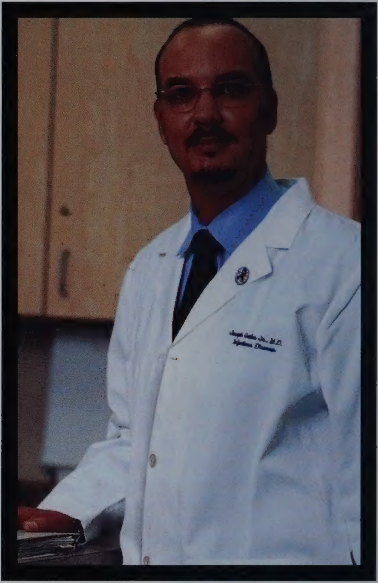
AIDS: IN SEARCH OF A CURE

Dr. Joseph C. Gathe, Jr., M.D., F.A.C.P

Physician – Public Servant – Humanitarian



Dr. Joseph C. Gathe, Jr., is a quintessential public servant and humanitarian. As the medical director of the Donald R. Watkins Memorial Foundation, Dr. Joseph C. Gathe, Jr., heads a dedicated team of tireless doctors and medical professional committed to advancing the honorable goals and objectives of the foundation.

It became apparent early in his medical career that Dr. Joseph C.Gathe, Jr. possessed an untiring and investigative nature, coupled with a driving desire to seek answers and search for truths that related to and impacted the human health condition.

It was through this visionary exploratory spectrum that researcher and scientist within Dr. Gathe truly manifested itself through his quest to unlock the mysteries of infectious diseases.

Dr. Joseph C. Gathe, Jr., thus became intensely focused on treating the illnesses and effects caused by the multiplicity of infectious disease rampant within our communities.

And for his astounding commitment and dedication to his medical mission, Dr. Gathe's professionalism, persistence and critical subject knowledge was duly noted resulting in his bestowment of numerous honors, awards and professional recognitions for his research, study and service.

He has successfully completed a fellowship in Infectious Disease at Baylor College of Medicine and The Methodist Hospital, and is Board Certified in Infectious Disease and Internal Medicine.

A Diplomat of the American Board of Internal Medicine, a fellow in the American College of Physicians, and a Fellow in the Infectious Disease Society of America, Dr. Gathe Currently serves as a Clinical Instructor for the Department of Internal Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine and is the Chief of Infectious Disease for Park Plaza Hospital of Houston.

In the late 1990's, Dr. Joseph C. Gathe, Jr. met a patient who would have a profound and eye-opening impact on his medical career. Dr. Donald R. Watkins, an influential and well-known community leader, spiritual leader and noted psychologist, who held a Bachelors Degree in Chemistry from the University of Texas at Arlington and both Masters and Doctorate Degree in Psychology from the University of Texas at Austin came to Dr. Gate diagnosed with the virus that causes AIDS.

It was through meeting Dr. Watkins and while treating him for the disease that Dr. Gathe Came to further commit to investing the HIV/AIDS phenomenon with an urgency to work towards its eradication.

As a direct result of this doctor/patient relationship and following the death of Dr. Donald R. Watkins who while ill faced the stigma of inadequate primary care services, the Donald R. Watkins Memorial Foundation was established with a mandate and charge of providing superior medical services to people regardless of ethnic or financial background at risk for living with HIV/AIDS.

After years of intense and revealing research, the fruits of his labor began to manifest itself in critical revelations and discoveries, resulting in invaluable contributions and finding which is paving the way for possible future of HIV/AIDS eradication.

As a researcher and scientists, Dr. Gathe is Principal or Co-Investigator for nearly 100 protocols focused on improving the status of people living with HIV. He has published extensively on HIV/AIDS topics in numerous respected medical and professional journals such as, AIDS, JOURNAL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE, ANNALS OF INTERNAL MEDICINE, JOURNAL OF ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROMES and THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF MEDICINE. Dr. Gathe has also Authored 68 articles in many peer review publications.

In the areas of medicinal and pharmaceutical applications and treatments, Dr, Gathe has accomplished three of the world's firsts: In 1991 Tetracycline Derivatives as effective treatment for CNS Toxoplasmosis; In 199 the first effective treatment for Crytosporidiosis; and In 2004 was the first to conduct a single drug proof of the safety and efficiency of Kaletra as single drug HAART in+ARV naïve patients.

Now serving communities on global scale, Dr. Joseph C. Gathe Jr., has emerged as a time-tested, fully-committed, knowledgeably-engaged authority on infectious disease and more specifically the growing epidemic of HIV/AIDS.

His authoritative views, opinions, findings and input are frequently sought far and wide from Houston, Texas to Washington, DC TO Singapore to Africa, and Dr. Gathe continues to step forward dutifully in services to mankind with tireless vigor an unwavering commitment to producing positive health outcomes.

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HIV TESTING OPTIONS

There are several HIV antibody tests being used today. All testing options are not available in all areas. Contact your local health department for the tests available in your area.

1. **STANDARD BLOOD TEST:** This was the first HIV antibody test developed and made available, and is the most widely used. With this test, an initial assay is used (the ELISA), and confirmed using a more specific test (the Western Blot).

2. **ORAL MUCOSAL TRANSUDATE TEST:** This test, an alternative to the standard blood test, uses a specially treated pad placed in a person's mouth, and gently rubbed between the lower cheek and gum. The pad collects an oral fluid called oral mucosal transudate (OMT). This fluid contains HIV antibodies in an HIV- infected person. This test does not test for HIV in saliva.

3. **URINE HIV ANTIBODY TEST:** The urine HIV-1 testing method is a painless, non-evasive option for getting an HIV antibody test. This test uses the urine EIA (ELISA) and urine Western Blot technique to detect HIV antibodies, and is FDA – licensed as an alternative to the blood test system. This test eliminates accidental needle sticks and exposure-related dangers, protecting the patient and healthcare worker.

4. **RAPID HIV ANTIBODY TESTS:** Where the standard HIV antibody testing procedure requires up to two weeks for results, the rapid test gives results in 5-60 minutes. Currently approved rapid HIV tests only test with blood. Other rapid HIV testing methods are in development. To perform the test, a fingerstick sample of blood is collected from an individual and transferred to a vial where it is mixed with a developing solution.The test device, which resembles a dipstick, is then inserted into the vial. In as little as 20 minutes, the test device will indicate if HIV-1 antibodies are present in the solution. Although the results of rapid screenings will be reported in point-of-care settings, as with all screening tests for HIV, if the OraQuick test gives a reactive test result, that result must be confirmed with an additional specific test.The OraQuick test has not been approved to screen blood donors.

5. **HOME TESTING KIT:** This do-it-yourself test kit uses the same technology as the standard blood test. Individual blood samples are collected at home, and mailed to a laboratory.Test results are provided over the telephone. The serum home testing kit costs between $30 and $45, and is available at many drug stores. Currently there is only one FDA approved home sample collection kit. Home HIV tests for other fluids are in development.

For more information about testing options in your area, contact you local health department or the National STD/HIV/AIDS hotline (1-800-342-2437). **The only way to know if you are infected with HIV is by taking an HIV antibody test.**

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REAL PEOPLE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HIV/AIDS

Gary English

Executive Director
People of Color In Crisis
Brooklyn, NY

I chose to be involved in a Black gay HIV prevention agency because I saw the need to make sure that Black gay men in NY and throughout the country are aware of their HIV status and connected to medical care and services. I feel it's imperative that the Black LGBT community's rights are intact so that we can have a mechanism for fighting racism, homophobia, and sexism in the greater community. Being the Executive Director of POCC, I will make sure that the Black LGBT community's voices are heard. We're not invisible. We want to be recognized.

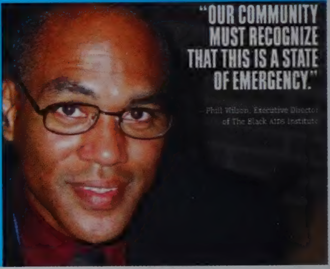
Phill Wilson 48

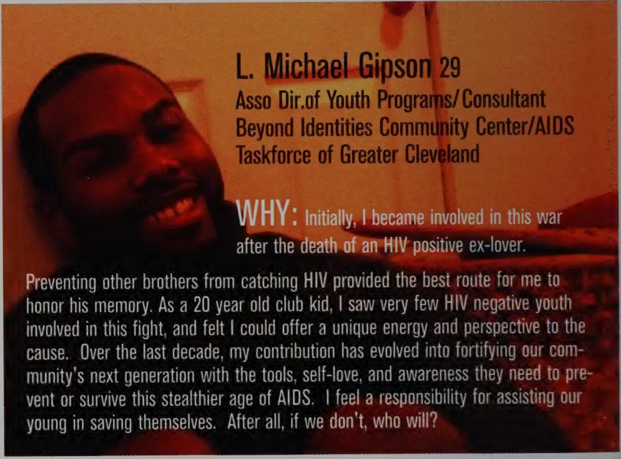
Executive Director
Black AIDS Institute
Los Angeles, CA

In The Fight Since Because:

I'm a Black Gay man living with AIDS in America and there is a killer loose in my family. Doing my part to stop the dying is exactly what I'm supposed to be doing. Anything less would be unacceptable. When I was a little boy, my parents would tell me that we were a family and the only way for a family to survive was for everyone to do their part. We are all a part of a global family. And through technology, travel and disease, our family gets closer every day. AIDS is attacking our family. Too many of us have died. Too many of us are sick. Too many of us are infected and don't know it. Too many of us are in denial. I've been visiting hospital rooms, sitting by dying beds, and delivering eulogies for over 20 years. I'm in the struggle because the struggle is not over. I'm in the struggle because Craig, Rory, Joe, Donald, Reggie, Chris, Assotto, Marlon, Essex, Keith, Charles, Roger and all the names I've forgotten over the years mattered.

"The lives of Black men are priceless and must be saved"


"OUR COMMUNITY MUST RECOGNIZE THAT THIS IS A STATE OF EMERGENCY."
–Phill Wilson, Executive Director of The Black AIDS Institute



L. Michael Gipson 29

Asso Dir.of Youth Programs/Consultant
Beyond Identities Community Center/AIDS
Taskforce of Greater Cleveland

WHY: Initially, I became involved in this war after the death of an HIV positive ex-lover. Preventing other brothers from catching HIV provided the best route for me to honor his memory. As a 20 year old club kid, I saw very few HIV negative youth involved in this fight, and felt I could offer a unique energy and perspective to the cause. Over the last decade, my contribution has evolved into fortifying our community's next generation with the tools, self-love, and awareness they need to prevent or survive this stealthier age of AIDS. I feel a responsibility for assisting our young in saving themselves. After all, if we don't, who will?

No. 1

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HIV/AIDS is the numer once cause of death for African Americans between the age of 25 — 44.

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What Have We Learned As Black Gay Men?

By Rudy Carn, Executive Director/CEO
National AIDS Education & Services for
Minorities, Inc. (NAESM)

Since the beginning of the AIDS epidemic Black gay men have been dying quietly with nobody to call. Black gay men were shunned by their families and friends for living with AIDS. It was the shattering stories of how toxic the meds were and that the medical professionals and health-care providers did not fully understand the disease. Here we are two decades later. Black gay men are still dying and becoming infected at alarming rates. We must ask ourselves, "What have we learned?"

Many of us felt the need to go further than asking health officials for answers. We made ourselves a part of the solution. We rolled up our sleeves and began to fight HIV/AIDS. We felt that Black gay men were better prepared to help Black gay men than any ethnic group or gender. No one knew the depth and breath of Black gay men's feelings better than men who had walked the same path and faced the same obstacles and rejection. We were brothers by more than genes and physical characteristics. We were brothers because the spirits of brothers who led the fight two decades ago connected our souls. We promised them we would not give up nor would we give in to the pressures inside or outside.

What have we learned as Black gay men? I believe some of us have gotten stronger and wiser in the fight against the epidemic of HIV/AIDS. We learned from our past. We know now that some of the choices needed to change if we were going to remain uninfected or live a strong and healthy life with HIV/AIDS.

We learned that we needed to educate and re-educate brothers about their long term choices. We had to lead by example whether we wanted to or not. We had to show some brothers the difference one day could make. It could make the difference between putting on a condom and taking twenty pills a day.

I wish I could say we learned to fight the system without fighting each other. We could have all done better. We sometimes allowed our passion to overshadow our need to get along with each other. In my younger days, I was outspoken and sometimes arrogant at any cost. I didn't weigh the consequences. I pushed my way through the red tape to get around the obstacles because brothers were dying. I felt I was racing against the windstorm. When I look back and when you look back, we all must examine the sole purpose of the organizations that we gave birth to. Did we create these agencies in the spirit of love or in the spirit of competition? We know by experience that the AIDS Service community is competitive and sometimes cutthroat. But let us not forget that the true mission is not the castles we build here on earth but the brothers we save and protect from HIV/AIDS. Whether we feel the urge that we are racing against a clock or sick and tired of the statistics going up and going down and up again. There is still a need to treat each other with love, respect and dignity.

There is an African proverb that says, "When spider webs unite, they can tie up a lion." In my own words, when Black gay men unite, we can overcome the odds. We can overcome the dissension that overshadows our voices in a room. We can rise above the criticism that lingers in the air. We can even run faster if we learn to pass the baton of leadership to brothers whose legs are stronger and muscles are bigger. The baton could be technical assistance to the ASO with only two staff and no money. I remember those days when I wondered how I was going to make payroll. Those days were not easy. They caused sleepless nights and fatigue. On a positive note, the rough spots make us ready for the bend in the road. Most of us face the unknown, every year when we race against the clock to submit grants and continuation applications. We know that our agencies cannot remain effective if we lose major funding. So, we ready ourselves for the next bend in the road. Sometimes, we have to wait for the answer and for the next leader to be prepared.

The cure for AIDS may come long after my life and your life. But the fact still remains, we hope for a cure for AIDS. When it is all said and done, we want to leave a legacy that says, **"Black gay men united and their voices and deeds crippled the affects of HIV/AIDS. They stood ready for a cure and ready to continue the fight."**

REAL PEOPLE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HIV/AIDS

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Young Men: SAVING MEN

Jason, an African-American 16 year old sophmore at a Houston high school, has a secret. A secret that he's afraid to dicsuss with his friends and certainly not his family. "From as long as I can remember, I've always been attracted to other boys, but I don't see myself as being gay or anything like that," explains Jason. Yes, this is Jason's secret, he likes boys. I met him infront of a nightclub, shortly after being refused admission for attempting to gain admission with his 19-yearold brother driver's license. "Don't worry young man, you'll have your turn, and hopefully you'll be more aware off your surroundings", I said as I give him some outreach HIV prevention information. One day Jamal will learn that the bouncer at the club was really doing him a big favor. There are many things that Jamal doesn't know about the crowd of men he had hoped to party with that night. One thing in particular, is that 1 out of 3 of the guys in there are HIV positive.

— — Outreachworker @ YMSM, Houston

Over the past few years the CDC and many local community base organizations (CBOs) have noticed a sharp rise in the rate of HIV infections of young men between the age of 14-22. Young men such as Jamal are 4 times more likey to contract the disease that their white friends. As a result, the Federal Government, CDC and various city health departments have channeled funds to help young men such as Jamal remain HIV free. Recently, we spoke with Dr. George Smith, Executive Director at the Donald R. Watkins Memorial Foundation in Houston, Texas, who oversees Young Men Saving Men , a youth program at the agency. Here's what we learned about his agency, himself, and the people that his agency serves.

CM: Who was Donald R. Watkins?

Dr. Smith: Dr. Donald R. Watkins was a community activist, a

WHY DO I CARE?

Darrell Colone, Data Management Coordinator
I love doing what I do because I have a heart for helping people. Working at the Drop-In Center gives me the opportunity to help my young brothers make choices that lead to healthy and prosperous lives.

James Broussard
Community Outreach/Communications Specialist
I am a Black gay man, and I have a lot of love for Black gay men. A huge reason that I love my job is the simple fact that I get the opportunity to meet, help, support, and educate other Black gay, bisexual, MSM individuals. I am now in charge of all interventions, workshops, support groups, and focus groups that YMSM-Houston facilitates, as well as all media/communications programs. I love what I do because I get the chance to see firsthand the impact that I make in the lives of others. I feel good about that! The irony of this is that the people I work with help me grow, mature, and develop more than they will ever know.

Mack Davis
Project Coordinator
Prevention Case Management is more than just a word. Working as the Drop-In Center Prevention Case Manager fills my life with meaning because I know that with each day I have educated a young brother and helped him to understand the importance of protecting himself against HIV and other STD's. I also love having the opportunity to work with young men who are HIV+. I like to believe that what I do as PCM gives them a more positive outlook on life. It gives me great joy to communicate to a young Black man who is HIV+ that being infected does not mean the road has ended. You can overcome the obstacle and live a full and productive life.

W. Jeffrey Campbell
Project Coordinator
For most of my life I have always loved to motivate positive change in the lives of others. I get very excited watching monumental changes occur instantaneously as well as change that occurs in little steps. Working at the Drop-In Center gives me the opportunity to plant seeds in the lives of young African American MSM that will hopefully move them to make better decisions regarding their bodies, minds and spirits.

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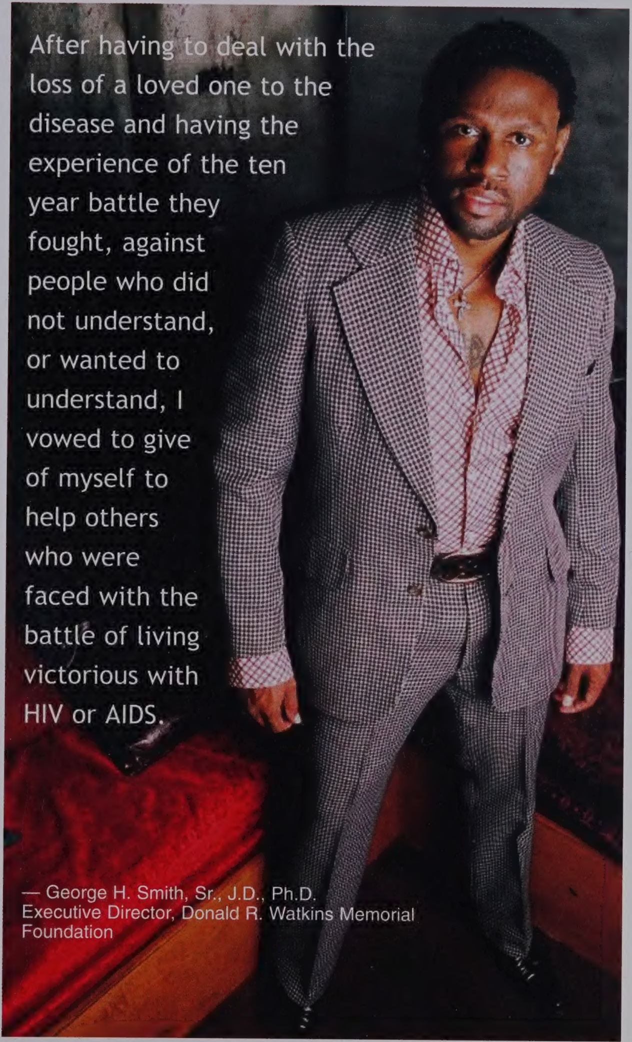


> After having to deal with the loss of a loved one to the disease and having the experience of the ten year battle they fought, against people who did not understand, or wanted to understand, I vowed to give of myself to help others who were faced with the battle of living victorious with HIV or AIDS.
>
> — George H. Smith, Sr., J.D., Ph.D.
> Executive Director, Donald R. Watkins Memorial Foundation

preacher, counselor, a Kappa, a son, and a catalyst, who was diagnosed with HIV, and had a hard time finding a doctor to care for him until meeting Dr. Joseph Gathe.

CM: What services does the Donald R. Watkins Memorial Foundation offer?
Dr. Smith: Primary care, case management, testing, counseling, preventative case management, rental, mortgage and utility assistance, as well as programmatic efforts for Young men who have sex with men.

CM: What population does the Donald R. Watkins Memorial Foundation serve?
Dr. Smith: Here at the DRWMF we serve all populations. Men, women, Black, White, Asian, young and elderly.... Everyone.

CM: What is the Young Men Saving Men (YMSM) Program About?

Dr. Smith: A project for young men between the ages of 13-24 who have sex with men. It a place where we provide them an opportunity to voice their concerns, get free HIV/STD counseling and testing, safer sex education, peer Counseling, risk reduction education, referral services, depression counseling, self-esteem development, drug and alcohol awareness, prevention case management, leadership training, and social and Recreational Activities

CM: How effective is the YMSM program?

Dr. Smith: The YMSM program is very effective for the African American Community. The program serves a need that is often neglected by the main stream society. I am very proud of the staff of gentlemen who run the day to day operations.

CM: What are some of the barriers of the project?

Dr. Smith: The stigma of homosexuality. Most African American men who have sex with men do not identify themselves as gay or bi sexual.

CM: What is it that you and your staff are doing to get young people involved in your program. How do you get them to visit the drop in center?

Dr. Smith: The staff and I provide program for the youth that are designed by the youth. We serve as a refiner. We have a youth task force that meet monthly and discuss what are the needs of their population. These needs are coveyed and then as staff we refined them to meet the reqiurements of our funding source. The youth visit the drop in Center often because we maintain a professional but festive environment. There is allways something goin on in the Center.

DR. SMITH CONTINUES ON PAGE 28

DR. SMITH CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

CM: And you have since transitioned into Executive Director. What exactly does an Executive Director of an organization such as yours do?

Dr. Smith: The Executive Director oversees the entire operations of an organization. I am responsible for managing several million dollars in grant monies, supervising all staff and being responsible for all programs, as well as developing new funding streams.

CM: What is your educational background?

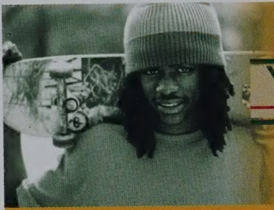
Dr. Smith: I received My BBA in Marketing, MA in Sociology, Ph.D. Public Administration, and a J D.(Law)

CM: Considering that your background is in marketing and Law what made you want to do this particular service related job/career?

Dr. Smith: Having such a diverse background in Marketing Social Services, Public Administration, and Law makes for an ideal CEO. Very often Non profits do not attract the people who are at the top of the totem pole when it comes to education and experience. After having to deal with the loss of a loved one to the disease and having the experience of the ten year battle they fought, against people who did not understand, or wanted to understand, I vowed to give of myself to help others who were faced with the battle of living victorious with HIV or AIDS.

CM: Let's talk a little more about you, you are a young man running one of Houston's largest community based organizations that has a budget in the millions, what qualifies you for such a huge position?

Dr. Smith: My first response would be that none of my accolades qualify me to anything by themselves. I beleive that God has a divine plan and has ordained me to work in this field, the decisions that I make affect people's lives. This is not something to take lightly. If I am not responsible enough, intelligent enough, experienced enough, I would definitely be a diservice to the people who depend on the services that we provide. Now that we understand that it is the creator that guides our path, we need to further understand that God equips us with the neccessary tools. I am a well educated African American man. Only a small percentage of people will attain double terminal degrees and I am one of them. Obtaining a Ph.D and a Juris Doctorate by the age of 35, while holding a bachelors and Masters Degree makes me a fine



HOUSTON
YOUNG MEN SAVING MEN

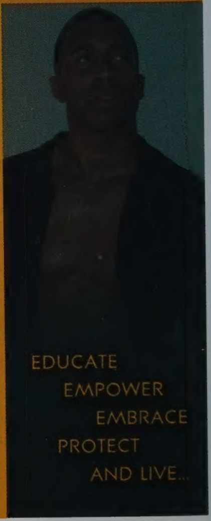
YMSM is a community empowerment project of the Donald R. Watkins Memorial Foundation.

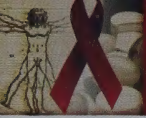
YMSM provides you and your partner with:

- An Opportunity to Voice Your Concerns
- Free HIV/STI Counseling and Testing
- Safer Sex Education
- Peer Counseling
- Risk Reduction Education
- Referral Services
- Depression Counseling
- Self Esteem Development
- Drug and Alcohol Awareness
- Decision Making/Partner Negotiation
- Prevention Case Management
- Leadership Training
- Social and Recreational Activities
- Volunteer Opportunities
- A Safe Social Environmen

YMSM Drop-In Center,
1403 Wheeler, Houston,
Texas 77004
(713) 526-1979 office
(713) 526-1976 fax
1-800-455-YMSM

ALL SERVICES ARE CONFIDENTIAL





candidate for any top key position. In addittion I have 13 years of experience in the Health Care arena, I am published, I have been a consultant for the past six years, and I own a rehabilitation clinic. Dr. Smith has paid his dues. I am proud to offer my services to African American non-profit foundation who has the world's leading doctor "Joseh C. Gathe" in the field of HIV/AIDS, and now has one premeir Executive Directors "What a Team".

CM: What is the single most rewarding aspect of your work?

Dr. Smith: Knowing that what I do has helped someone's life and has allowed them to retain their dignity.

CM: What is the least favorite part of your job?

Dr. Smith: Losing someone to the disease.

CM: What's a day in the life of Dr. George Smith like?

Dr. Smith: My day starts at 6:30A.M. I have meditation time period, maybe a quick workout, I get to my office at about 7:45-8:00A.M., Typically I am in meetings for the first part of the morning and then I will put out fires through out the day, I spend a great deal of time returning emails, doing reports to the grantors, and the Board of Directors. Typically, my day gets quiet at about 5:00pm and I then, am able to sit in my office and work on funding opportunities, type letters, budget reviews, address staffing problems, and forecast for the organization. My day ends about 7:30P.M. - 8:00P.M. Sometimes I eat lunch.

CM: If anything what would you like to change about the way your agency operates?

Dr. Smith: I think we operate just fine. Even though funding is an ever-present issue. My Medical Director takes the stance that we will not turn anyone away.

CM: A lot of agencies similar to yours are under scrutiny for misappropriations and other indemnities. How have you avoided this?

Dr. Smith: Simply do what you are commissioned to do. The work of non-profits is a special kind of work and everybody is not cut out for it. This work is rewarding, but not often financially. My agency compensates me, but in the for profit world, a professional like myself who has a Ph. D. and a JD can write his own ticket. I say that to illustrate that agencies must use the funds for what they are intended. Agencies must find people who are committed to the cause and not just looking for a paycheck.

CM: Last month, one of our writers called white gay men clueless and manipulative in wasting billions of dollars and not serving the African American community. How do you feel about this assertion?

Dr. Smith: I feel that white gay men should not be held to the task of taking care of or serving the African American Community. African Americans must elevate themselves to the levels that the white gay men have and take responsibility for their communities. We need more African American, Medical Doctors, Ph.D's, Attorneys, Lobbyists, and high level professionals to be able enter into the areas that control the dollars. We should not scream and act in the way that they would expect us, but speak the language of the professional world and maneuver ourselves to get in control or have some influence over who controls the funding. African Americans have got to stop looking to the White Society to solve all of our problems. We must get off of our behinds and mobilize. It takes everybody from the thinkers to the doers, to solve this problem.

CM: Who are some of the key players in the organization?

Dr. Smith: I could not do what I do here at Donald R. Watkins Memorial Foundation without the support of Dr. and Mrs. Gathe and the Board of Directors. All of the program Directors and their staff empower me to do the task that God has given me in leading this organization. A leader is only as good as those that he leads.

CM: How demanding is your career on your personal life?

Dr. Smith: Very demanding, Being single helps, but hopefully I will find someone who can understand the passion I have for my career and allow me to be me as I allow them to be themselves.

CM: If you could ask one thing of the Clikque Magazine readership what would that be?

Dr. Smith: I would ask that the readership of Clikque get tested and know their status, If you are positive seek care, If you are not positive use preventative methods to decrease risky behaviors and most of all learn how to live victorious through the power that Christ gives us.

With that, our conversation with Dr. Smith ended and he went back to the business of caring for the less fortunate in the Metropolitan Houston area stricken by HIV and AIDS.

54%

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African Americans account for more than half (54%) of the 40,000 new HIV infections estimated to occur in the U.S. each year.4

HIV/POLITICS:
KERRY ON HIV/AIDS

Op-Ed Clikque Magazine
by Ramon Gardenhire
Deputy Director, Office of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Outreach, Democratic National Committee

Mark November 2, 2004 on your calendar. It's an important date for all of America. But for same-gender loving African Americans, it could be a life-saving one.

More than any other issue, HIV/AIDS is of special concern to the same-gender loving African American community. Although African Americans make up only 12% of the overall U.S. population, we account for half of all new HIV cases. As of 2003, nearly one out of every three urban same-gender loving black men is HIV-positive. And even more troubling than that, according to the Centers for Disease Control, 90% of those infected are completely unaware of their HIV-status. We don't know we have the disease, and as such, we're not doing enough to stop it from spreading.

In the upcoming presidential election, we will have the chance to weigh in on this, the single most important issue facing our community today. Our votes will determine whether HIV/AIDS becomes a national priority for all Americans or is held hostage to a right-wing ideology for four more years.

And the choice could not be more clear.

While President Bush has weakened America's fight against AIDS by pushing abstinence-based programs over scientifically proven contraceptive methods of protection, John Kerry has been leading the fight against HIV/AIDS for over a decade. He was an original cosponsor of the 1990 "Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act" to improve the quality and availability of care for individuals and families with HIV. John Kerry was a key supporter of the Ryan White Care Act, which significantly improved health care and the quality of life for those with HIV, and in 2003, he stood up against Republican attempts to decrease funding for minority health care, including HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment programs. His hard work on behalf of those in our community with HIV/AIDS has earned him a career rating of 100% from the NAACP and Human Rights Campaign.

And once we help elect John Kerry as President, he will continue to fight for us.

John Kerry plans to continue waging an all out war against HIV/AIDS and the right-wing policies that place our community in danger. He will increase Funding for the Ryan White CARE Act. He will ensure equal access for those of us living with the diseases with the Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS (HOPWA) program. Plus, John Kerry will protect and improve Medicaid, the largest financer of HIV/AIDS care in the United States. And John Kerry will ensure the highest level of funding for the Minority HIV/AIDS Initiative (MHAI) to combat the disproportionate prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the African American community.

John Kerry also supports the Leadership Campaign on AIDS which will help put African American and gay leaders on the front lines in our community's battle. And John Kerry will increase AIDS research funding at the National Institutes of Health, CDC and other agencies, creating incentives for public and private development of AIDS vaccines and microbicides.

We will not ensure equal treatment for those living with HIV and AIDS and we will not stop its spread until will elect a leader with the vision and commitment to help fight for our community and our lives. John Kerry is that leader and we, the same-gender loving black community of America, have the power to put him in the White House.

The choice is ours. Save the date. Save one another.

90%

by the numbers by the numbers by the numbers by the

The CDC in 2003 reported that 1 in 3 urban same gender loving black ,male is HIV positive. Of this number, 90% of them are unaware of their status.

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By Scott Bogan

RELATIONSHIPS & HIV:

AT WHICH POINT DO YOU DISCLOSE YOUR STATUS?

I usually try not to judge people because I don't like to be judged. Judgment is something that should be left to God and the court system. With that being said, there are certain things that I cannot and will not excuse. I will spare you my usual list and cut right to the chase. It is inexcusable to be HIV positive and not disclose your status to anyone that you are having a sexual relationship with.

Some of the new readers may not be aware of this, but I am HIV positive and I have been since 1996. In the very first article that I wrote for CLIKQUE I disclosed my status. I decided to do this because when I tested positive it was during the time that I was watching a very close friend of mine die right before my eyes. He was dying because he never told anyone about his illness. His secrecy kept him in denial and allowed the virus to take over his body. When he finally went to the hospital, the virus was so advanced that he never came out. He died at 23. In retrospect, all of the signs were there. He was wearing turtlenecks in the summertime to cover his inflamed lymph nodes; he slept more than normal, he never had any energy, etc. We knew something was going on but we were too afraid to talk with him about it. Because of our fear and his fear, he died and I cannot help but to accept some of the blame for his death.

After his death, I struggled with understanding why he kept his status such a secret. I still don't understand this. Why is a person's status such a secret? I made a mistake. I had sex without using protection. Do people really think that I don't have sex? Or I don't make mistakes? So, I am supposed to suffer in silence? That is crazy! People that smoke and get lung cancer don't live in secrecy. Why the hell should I?

I make it my practice to disclose my status almost immediately after meeting someone that I am interested in or is interested in me. With the person that is currently in my life, I told him on the phone after talking with him for 3 hours. While he is not positive, he didn't stutter or flinch when I told him that I am. The conversation kept right on flowing. I am not saying that this is a normal reaction; it is a mature one, but not always the norm. I also am not advocating that this be everyone's practice. This is what works for me. All that I am saying is that life is about choices and people need information to make a choice. Please stop being a part of the problem and start being a part of the solution!

$$$
HIGH COST TO STAY ALIVE

Since the creation of AIDS DRUG ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS (ADAPS), States have worked hard to maximize resources in order to provide medications to as many low-income and inadequately insured individuals living with HIV/AIDS as possible. In recent years, however, States have faced enormous challenges as a result of rapid growth in ADAP enrollment, the number of prescriptions per enrollee, and the cost of treatments. Much of this growth has been due to the introduction of new antiretroviral medications.

Combination antiretroviral drug therapy has proven to be highly effective in improving health, extending life and improving the quality of life for people with HIV/AIDS. As a result, the use of combination therapy and a new class of antiretroviral drugs called fusion inhibitors that add an additional $15,000 to combination therapy, have emerged as the new standard of care. However, the high cost of combination therapy-approximately $11,000 to $12,000 per patient per year excluding Fuzeon-has significantly increased pressure on ADAPs to adopt a wide variety of cost-containment strategies designed to maximize resources. These include restructuring their purchasing and distribution system, more aggressive negotiations with pharmacy benefits contractors, closer coordination with Medicaid and Medicaid waiver programs, improved data collection and tracking systems, and participation in the Section 340B Drug Discount Program.

1 IN 3

by the numbers by the numbers by the numbers by the

p in a not so typical black family, I reflect upon my own youth and entree' into adulthood where, rare was the occasion that I can recall a time when either

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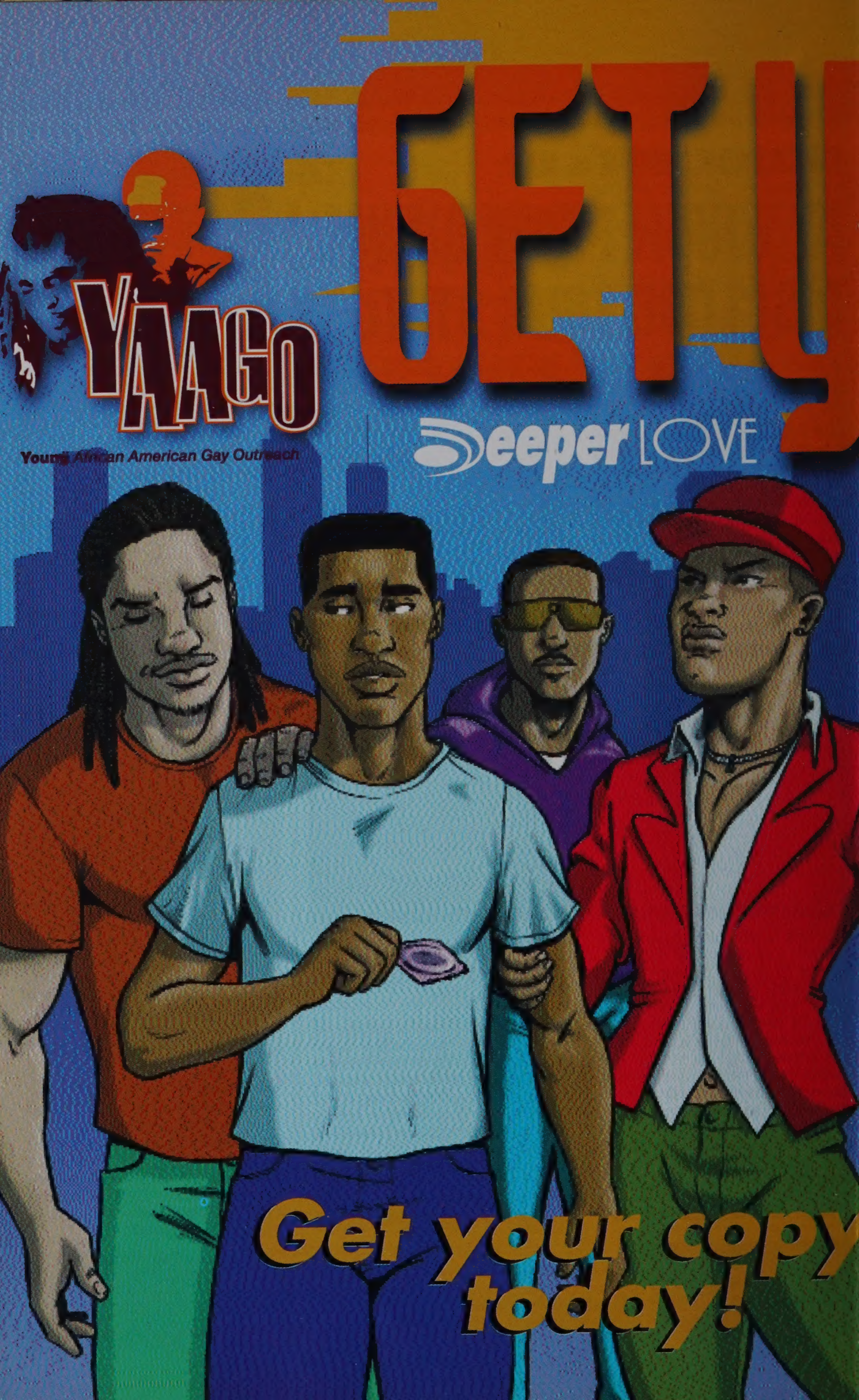
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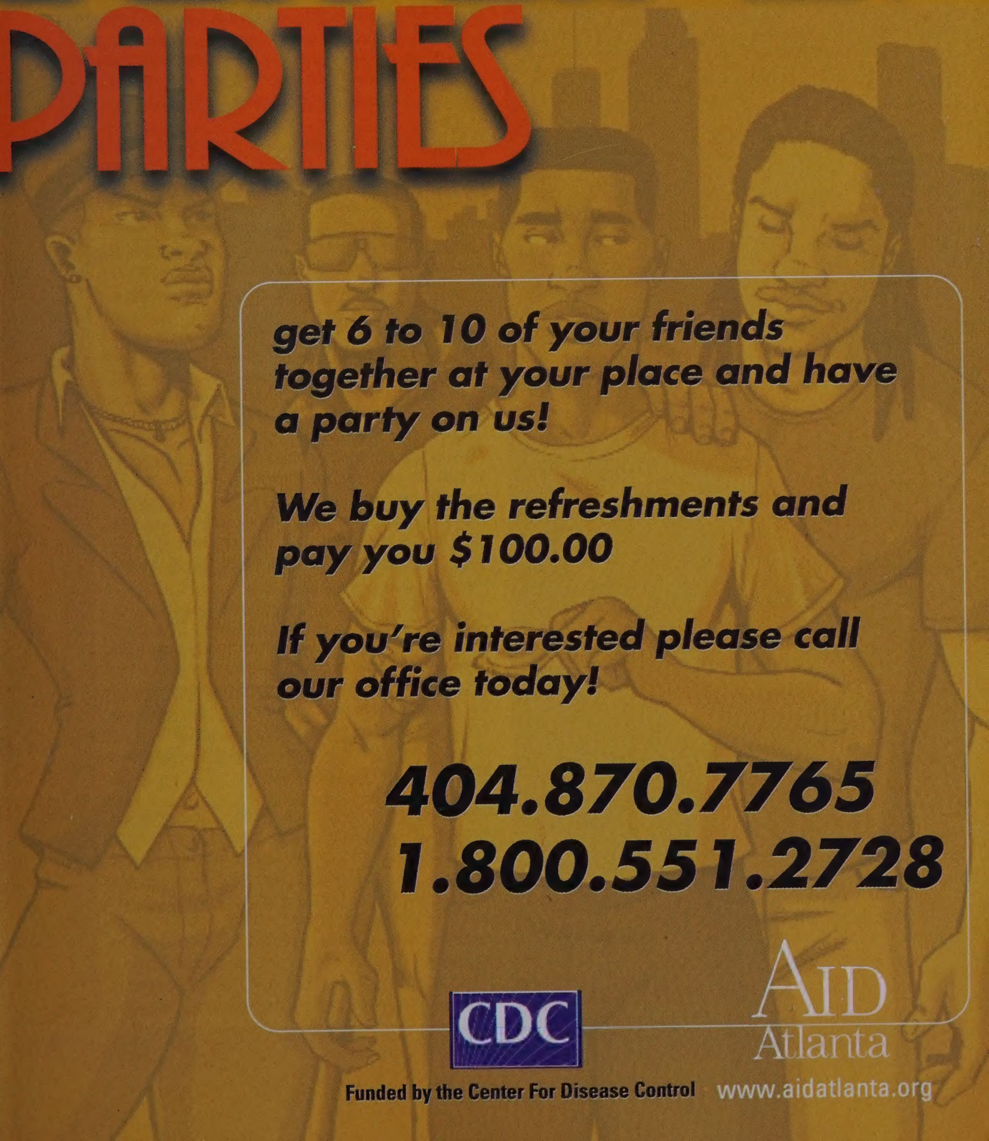

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BAREBACKER SEEKS LOVE FINDS TROUBLE

REPRINT

I'd been living in New York City for the past year jerking my life away. Literally: I must have slept with several hundred guys in the previous year, searching in each of them for some fulfillment, withdrawing into a world of 24 hour, instantly available, serial smut on the Web. I felt lonely and depressed and my doctor prescribed an anti-depressant in a well-intentioned attempt to medicate me out of my inertia. However, his best efforts failed -- dismally.

It was during this bout with depression that I became interested in receptive anal sex. Getting poked up the butt -- with anything, let alone a fully engorged, erect penis -- was never high on my list of things to do. But recently... I'd had a change of heart: like coleslaw or sushi, how do you know you don't like something unless you try it?

With this in mind, I made a date with Rick, a guy I met online and chatted with for over nine months before hooking up.

Rick is about as movie star gorgeous as any man I have ever known. There's something overwhelmingly persuasive about a man as attractive as him. It wasn't more than 15 minutes until we were in bed together and he was fucking me. Thinking back, I can't remember either of us ever mentioning condoms but I had told him ages ago that, "I [was] negative and I intend[ed] to stay that way".

Things progressed fairly rapidly from that point on -- we saw each other often, with escalating frequency. It wasn't long before sex dates had become traditional dates, incorporating walks in the park, dinners and sleep-overs. Nevertheless, even as romance blossomed, the primary focus was an incredible sexual attraction. We were irresistibly drawn to each other.

Losing myself in our connection, I indulged my fantasy of a devoted, loving relationship, one that embraces unsafe sex between HIV-negative partners as a physical manifestation of our intense emotional bond. I did NOT want to convert: I'm not a bug-chaser. But I had an erotic notion of semen in this context to the point that ingesting it -- the whole act of consuming and incorporating it -- became an irresistible impulse. And we acted on that impulse. The only

problem? We removed condoms from our equation before discussing HIV status or testing.

Instead of drawing us closer, it felt like our moment of unparalleled intimacy only drove us apart, as a dark cloud descended over our amorous tranquility. Suddenly, Rick wanted us both to test for HIV, "if we're going to do that kind of thing."

Which was fine by me, I suppose, as he had to be negative -- after all, I'd told him that I was and he'd been fucking me raw for weeks at this point. (I mean, he HAS to be negative, right?) I awaited the results with a familiar sense of undulating panic: of course I'm negative; oh my God, what about the time that...; everything's fine; dear Lord, I'm dying -- I can feel it growing inside me!

I got the all clear. Negative, undetectable viral load: the dream survives -- I think. Elated, I left word on Rick's cell phone, hoping he'd return my call shortly with equally wonderful news. And so I waited. And waited.

Finally, later in the afternoon, he rang to report his result. He was positive.

He sounded devastated as he told me that he'd spent the past few hours alone in a café, debating treatment options and pondering his fate, wracked with self- recriminations and doubt. I wanted to drop everything to be with him, but he wouldn't have it. He told me that I should leave him ("I'm no good for you"), that he'd kill himself if I were hurt (Oh my God, that's right: what about me?).

I went straight to my doctor to report Rick's test result. He crossed his eyes, breathed a deep sigh and advised me to immediately commence triple-combination Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP). However, he cautioned me that 10 days had past since Rick came inside me, well outside the 24-hour window within which PEP is believed to be effective.

I'm told the adverse side effects of HIV meds improve dramatically after the first four to six weeks. I wouldn't know, since PEP "only" lasts for one month -- an extremely expensive month if you don't have health insurance or you don't want your insurer to know about it. Within minutes of taking the first of so many hundreds of pills, every waking hour of that month was unbearably nightmarish. Apart from the chronic diarrhea and gassy bloating, my skin constantly felt like it was on fire and I was always exhausted.

Later that first night, tired and alone -- feeling abandoned in my misery -- I tried calling Rick to find out how he was coping and to update him on my news. But his phone was switched off and I was directed -- repeatedly -- straight to his voice-mail: "Call me -- please!" Waiting in vain by the phone, I crawled into bed that first Friday night and cried myself to sleep, trying to come to terms with my responsibility for my role in all of this.

It didn't help that my doctor was adamant that he speak with Rick's doctor immediately in order to better address my treatment -- something to do with geno-/phenotypes.

The following afternoon, Rick finally rang back -- "Oh my God, you sound so sad -- what's wrong?" (What's wrong?)

He assured me that everything was OK, he'd been meditating and had decided to come back to the city on Sunday -- he'd meet me at the pier dance (Gay Pride -- how intimate!). We ended up back together and I felt as if love would see us through this horror. We comforted each other as we settled into our respective drug regimens, gently trying to adjust to our new circumstances. Slowly the old rhythms returned and we resumed an approximation of our prior existence.

A few weeks later, I came across some of his medication bottles. The prescriptions had been filled a full week before we even tested, about the time he ejaculated inside me.

When I confronted him. He told me the truth. He'd known that he was positive for eight months. He just didn't know how to tell me. And he'd assumed that I had to be positive too if I let him fuck me raw -- and cum inside me. He didn't want to hurt anyone, least of all me, he said. He really did love me and was mortified by what he had done, he added. Would I ever forgive him?

I did, but things would never be the same again.

The lesson I learned is this: people, even good people, and those who say they love you, sometimes lie about really important things. Sometimes the lies are by omission and sometimes they're outright, bold-faced lies. And sometimes we even lie to ourselves.

When it comes to HIV-status and disclosure, by the time you finally get to the truth, you may have already put yourself or your loved ones at grave risk. Assumptions should never be made about the HIV status of your sexual partners. However dreamlike sex may feel, serious health risks and responsibilities accompany it.

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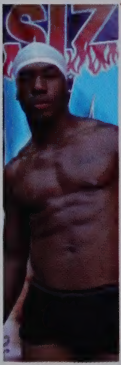

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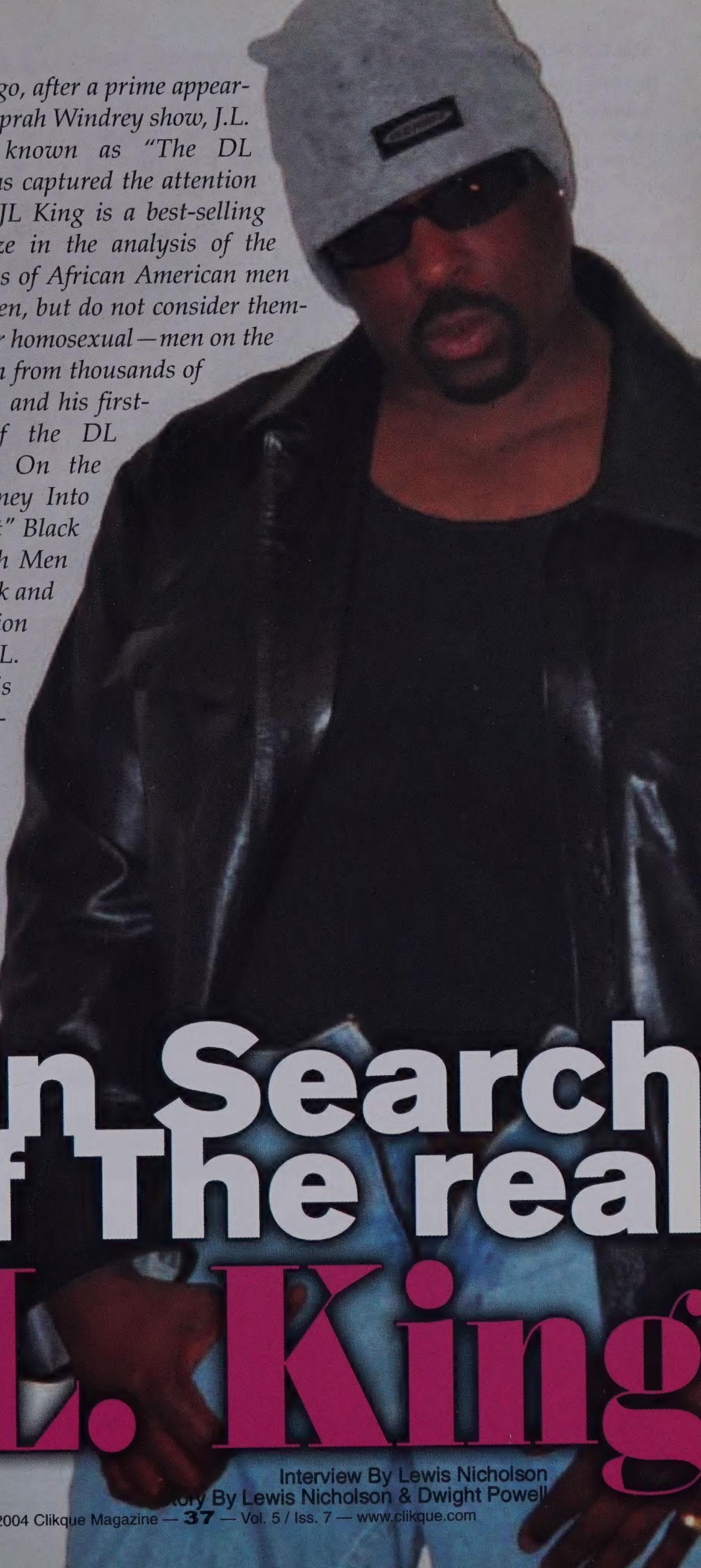


A few months ago, after a prime appearance on the Oprah Windrey show, J.L. King, now known as "The DL Whistle –Blower", has captured the attention of an entire nation. JL King is a best-selling author who specialize in the analysis of the behavior and lifestyles of African American men who have sex with men, but do not consider themselves gay, bisexual or homosexual—men on the "Down Low." Drawn from thousands of interviews, statistics, and his first-hand knowledge of the DL behavior, his book, On the Down Low: A Journey Into the Lives of "Straight" Black Men Who Sleep with Men delivers the first frank and thorough investigation of life on the DL. Today, J.L.King is about as controversial as the election results of the last presidential race in Florida. He is despised by some, loved by many, and respected by most.

KING CONTINUES ON PAGE 38

In Search Of The real J.L. King

Interview By Lewis Nicholson
tory By Lewis Nicholson & Dwight Powell

KING CONTINUED FROM PAGE 37

After the books release, women began to wonder if their men could be in the closet putting them at risk of HIV infection. Heterosexual men, found it necessary to prove their manhood to their wives and girlfriends. And gay men felt a sense of betrayal after being accused of spreading HIV to the DL men, who in turn gave it to their unsuspecting wives and girlfriends. The bottom line here is, that one way or another J.L. King has written a book that affects the lives of all black people. Talk about finding the right topic, at the right time.

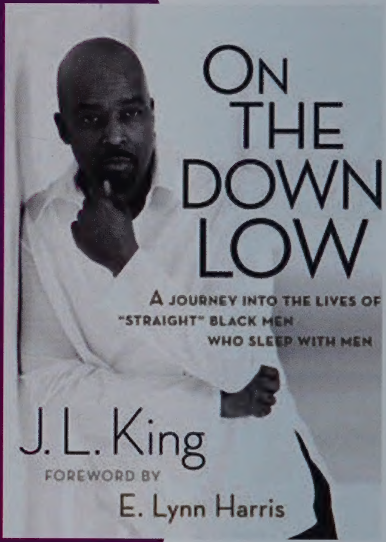
The "DL", a term popularized by hip-hop culture, came to be applied to anyone keeping a sexual relationship secret. It's been appropriated by out gay and bisexual men in the African-American community, as well as by men who have sex with men outside of their primary straight relationship but do not identify as gay or bisexual. Essentially, men on the DL lead double lives.

But even as it's a contested term, the DL can describe a certain African-American cultural specificity—attraction is most often based on both men being immersed in a "straight" ethic of masculinity: Some men on the down low distance themselves from the "gay" label, because of the stigma around homosexuality in African-American communities, and, sometimes, because they reject any affinity whatsoever with gay culture.

This past summer, Clikque had the esteem pleasure to chat with Mr. King about his book and newly found celebrity status. He first shares with us the fact that his primary reason for writing the book was not for fame or fortune, but rather to help the black community, particularly women. Mr. King stressed that Black men on the DL have to become a lot more forthcoming with their wives and girlfriends about their identity.

"I started my journey four years ago. It was not to write a book. I am not a writer. God gave me the opportunity to tell this story. Even today the success of the book blows me away, especially when I think of trained writers who have not achieved this level of success. I prayed and realized that this was something I had to do. I was a total unknown, it was not to get rich, it was to tell my story," explains J.L. King.

Mr. King is a national HIV prevention educator, activist, author, and producer who specializes in the analysis of the behavior and lifestyles of African American men who have sex with men, but do not consider themselves gay, bisexual or homosexual—men on the "Down Low." He has interviewed over 2,500 men who are living on the DL.


ON THE DOWN LOW
A JOURNEY INTO THE LIVES OF "STRAIGHT" BLACK MEN WHO SLEEP WITH MEN
J. L. King
FOREWORD BY
E. Lynn Harris

In keeping with his original plan of telling his story and helping his friends working in the HIV field, Mr. King has started the Ally Macon foundation, which supports organizations in need of financial assistance in the fight against HIV. "I'm particularly interested in helping agencies that are struggling to keep their doors open," explains King.

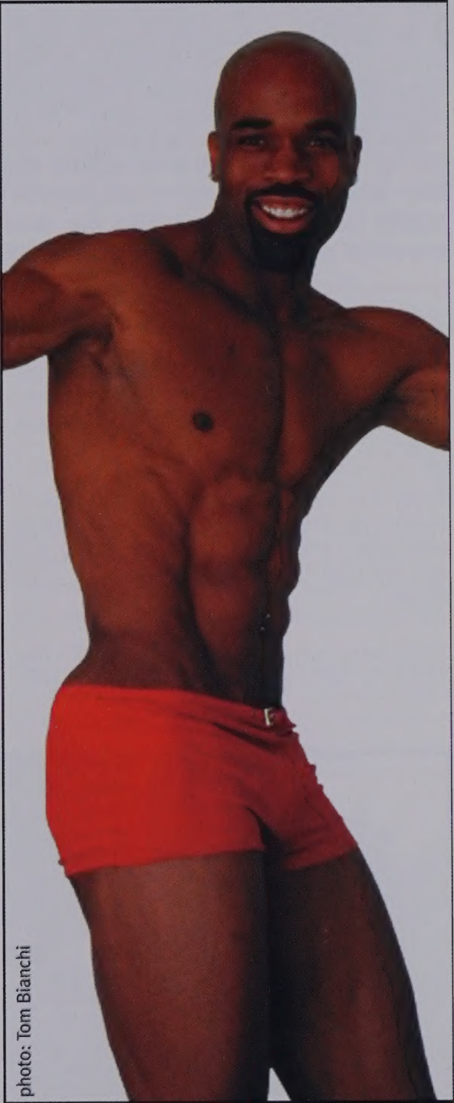
When asked about the title of the book he was quick to explain that the title needed to be catchy and appealing to the masses. Many in the gay community took issue with the title of the book which suggests that these married men that are sleeping with other men are straight. Most gays will tell you that if a man sleeps with another man, then he's gay. That is an age old debate which King acknowledges but said this in his defense," Everyday-people will be able to understand, it was an attention getter, I hope people will understand that I was trying to make the book readable." So we can end the debate over the title of the book being erroneous. King acknowledges that men who sleep with men, may appear straight but they are not.

Shots were heard across the globe from gay and mainstream media when his book was released. The world was consumed by talk of the DL movement and King was on his way to stardom. A status he says that he can do without, especially because the message he's carrying is undeniably far more important than the celebrity status he has garnered. With the increasing rate of HIV/AIDS cases among black women, King felt compelled to tell his personal story—living with his wife and daughter as a DL husband and father for many years.

As women welcome his insight and book with open arms, gay men tend to be some of his harshest critics. According to King, "Black gay men are my biggest detractors. I am not talking about them so I don't understand why they seem to hate me. I am addressing men who generally love pussy more. Gay men are jealous of my being on TV. There were some angry, pissed off, bitchy gay men who met me once at Dr. Ron Simmons, Director of Us Helping Us home. I addressed the pandemic, played on their emotions and their feelings for their mothers and sisters and when I was done they were hugging me in support of my work." The fight with gay black men is not over, but if you were to meet J. L King you may very well feel differently about him.

Recently, Clikque Magazine printed an article written by a woman who claims to have met J. L. King in Charleston, SC at a conference. She stated that King's HIV positive status had caused him and his family great pain. After reading the article, King called the Clikque office to clarify his HIV status. We were informed that this vicious rumor of him being positive had surfaced over a year ago on the internet. "I am not HIV positive, My ex-wife is not HIV positve, and my daughter is not HIV positive", explains King. King is still trying to track-down the source of the fabricated story that has caused great pain to himself and his family, and loss of close friends.

KING CONTINUES ON PAGE 40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KING CONTINUED FROM PAGE 39

DL men have been around for ever. The topic isn't new to most, so we asked Mr. King, to tell us what is it that makes him and his story so special. This is what he had to say: "I am a good looking black man, father and husband. Plus I am desirable. It was my season and I was the chosen one to tell this story. Women did not believe their men had sex with sissies, but they believe their men would have sex with J. L."

> “I was reminded of my journey as a fledgling prostitute - how absolute blood lust had coerced me to travel back nightly into the streets, selling life; seed, thus igniting a genocidal hatred of my own flesh and spirit”

Today J.L. king has a special friend who is female and accepts him for who he is. She is well aware that he has a thing for ass and dick but they have a mutual respect for each other.

To his detractors, King had this to say, "If I was white, by now I would be having dinner with the President, streets named after me. I would be a national hero, if I was trying to save white women's lives. So please let me be." J.L spoke very candidly about his work and his life. There was a sense of urgency and a sense of earnestness in his tone, as well as pride in his accomplishments.

In April 2005, King will publish yet another book. The book remains untitled. "I stirred up the waters and much more needs to be learned. I learned more since the publication of this book. There is way more to be told." If you have already read this book, get ready for part two, and if you have not read the current release, get you a copy so you too can formulate an opinion based on the facts you read for yourself. Needless to say, regardless of how you feel about J. L. King, it is undeniable that this man's work has affected you in one way or another.

Kudos to king for having the insight to incite such a reaction in all of us.

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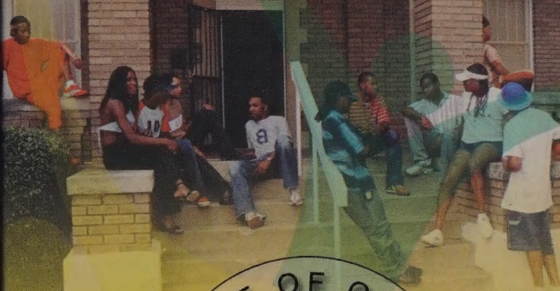

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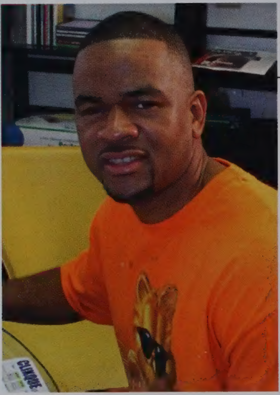
Written By Lewis Nicholson



WHO IS TO BLAME?

"If you love me, you would do it. My test just came back negative; I would never cheat on you. I am clean. You don't have anything, do you? " These are just as few examples of the things we hear, before we are propositioned to engage in unsafe sexual practices.

Some people have had several HIV positive boyfriends and or partners and to this day are still HIV negative. Others have been positive for years and are still asymptomatic. Others have found the drug that woks for them and still there are others who suffer and die from the disease.

I will not quote statistics as this particular issue of Clikque Magazine is filled with numerical data. I will look at the issue of, who is to blame?

I sat and listened as a buddy of mine Jon, explain how he hated Gerard, the man who gave him HIV. He was angry and distraught. The venom he was spewing was unimaginable. I asked him why he was so mad at Gerard and he said, "wouldn't you be, if he gave you HIV?" I thought to myself, no girl, as promiscuous as I have been, I have no right being mad. But that is just me. Jon went on to tell me, that Gerard made him go with him to get an HIV test and his test came back negative. Gerard told him, his was negative too and he foolishly decided to engage in unprotected sex with him for the duration of their relationship. On his next bi-annual visit, after only having had sex with Gerard, Jon tested positive. He went home and threw a bitch fit and rightfully so. Would you believe that Jon's boyfriend had the nerve to tell him, that he had been positive for years, but figured if he shared the virus with him, they would be together forever? The unmitigated gall of some people!

Needless to say Jon still dumped Gerard and now at 25 years old has to live with the knowledge that he is HIV positive. He has adjusted to his new life as an HIV positive man, but he could still have been negative had it not been for that liar he once called boyfriend and his own naivete. On further questioning, Jon revealed that since he never cheated, he trusted Gerard to do the same. So the question here is, who is to be blamed? Gerard for lying or Jon for trusting Gerard with his life.

People claim there are some innocent victims. Implicit in that statement is the notion of deserving victims. Who are these people who deserve HIV? You could not possibly be talking about my handsome, gorgeous, delectable, fine ass brothers, who enjoy a good romp in the hay? Yes, I am talking about the promiscuous ones amongst us. Because I enjoy sex and I do it freely with the next fine brother; does that mean I should contract HIV? I am human too and I too deserve a long and happy life. Promiscuity is a result of many different things, one of them being a lack of self-love and self worth. It is difficult for us to accept that we are self-hating but our promiscuity is an attestation to that fact. I am currently involved in a relationship and so I am no longer the poster child of promiscuity. But do I deserve to contract HIV? And if I did, who am I to blame when I was the one who made the decision to have multiple partners?
The truth of the matter is that all victims of HIV are innocent. No one deserves to be infected. Despite our actions and our many flaws we all deserve to be spared. It is time for us, to talk with our partners about HIV status before the sex begins and not after the test results come back.

There are a few instances when you can point the finger and blame a certain person for your HIV infection, but what good is it going to do?

There are a few murderers out there passing the disease off to others knowingly. Let us hope they will stop this behavior, even though they too may have once been unknowing victims of a killer boyfriend.

So this month, I encourage you to act responsibly and take the matter of your life into your own hands. If you are negative, practice safer sex and remain that way. If you are already positive, take care of yourself to remain healthy. Until next month, when I get to write about something more fun, work hard, play harder and remember to be safe.

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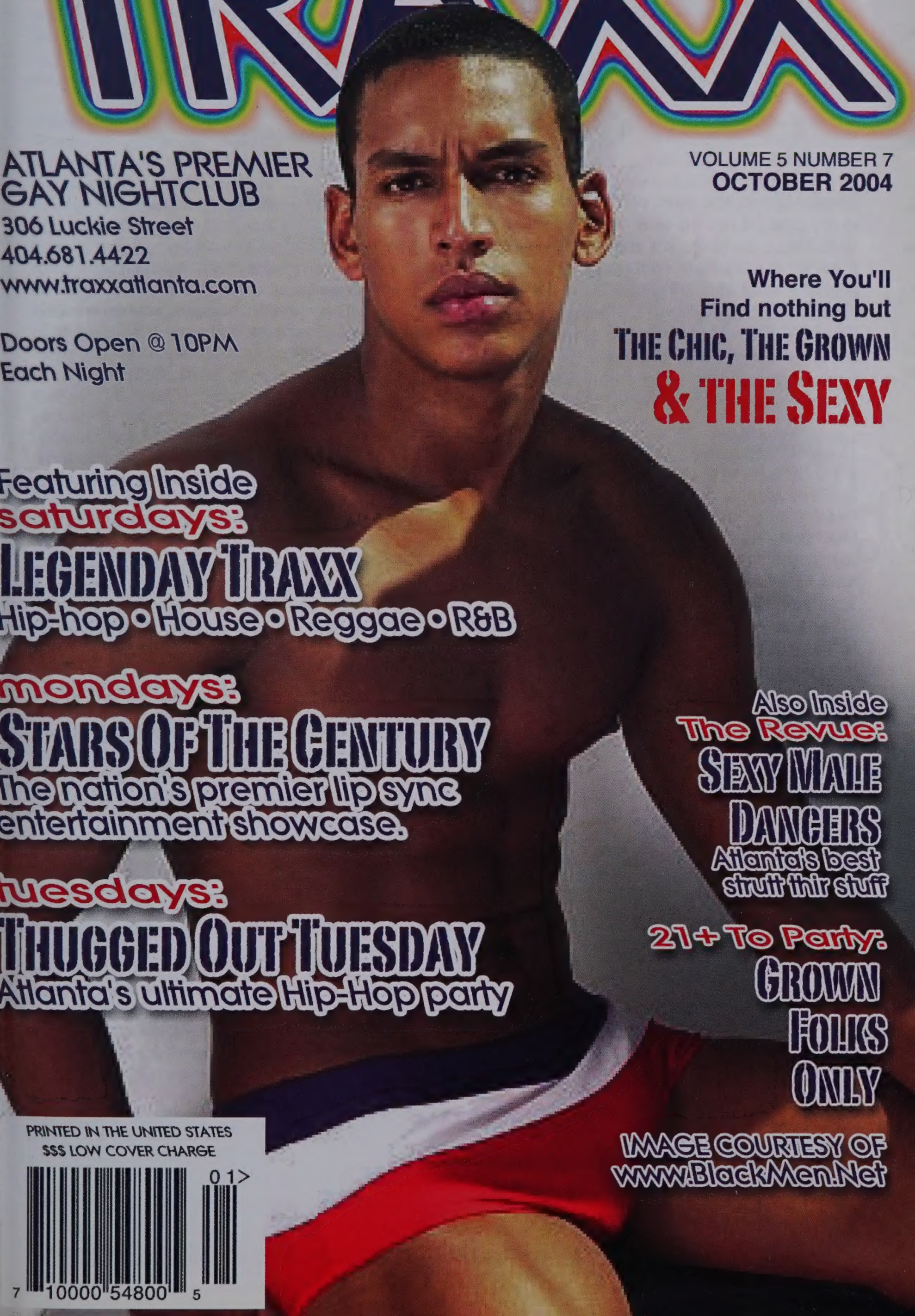

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Ask Bianca

Beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder, but in my case, it lies all over my face. Oops, my bad. Hello darlings, it's me again, your girl Bianca Buchannan. Sitting untold and perched near this computer as my assistant Francine is typing my dictation. I usually type the column myself, but since I learned that my do girl has a degree in American Literature and can type I may never touch another work-related keyboard.

The summer is almost over and it has been a good one for me. Most of you are headed towards Atlanta to salvage your youth, promote your promiscuity or serve a runway at the functions. I for one will be perched at a spa in the south of France getting me a milk bath surrounded by hung French men. Speaking of hung men I got a phone call from Killer last week. Out of the blue he decides to have a friend of his three-way me from lockdown where he is locked up for trying to get me that last diamond that would have completed my set. Too bad he got caught or he would still be enjoying this hot coochie. He sounded like he may have turned into a batcatcher in there and that will not work with me when he is released.

I had to fess up and tell him that someone had been keeping his bed warm. Truth be told there is no hope for killer and me. The new man in my life has an equally big piece and foreskin. Killer is cut and these days I like the foreskin, so when I go to the beach or if it is raining I can wear it over my head like a bonnet.

Let me get on to this month's letters as Francine and I have hair appointments in 30 minutes.

Dear Bianca,

My friends can't take me. They say that I am a Dinge queen because I only date black men and I am a JAP. My parents have no problem with me dating outside my race but my friends want to know what can a black man offer a Jewish princess such as myself. What should I do?
Michael Feinstein

Dear Michael,
You know exactly what to say to those girls. First off, they are racist and you should slap them for even using the word dinge to refer to good, black dick. As for what a black man can offer you, take notes. You already know this, but let me put it on paper so you can repeat it to your girlfriends. A black man can offer you a nicely sculptured body and a huge dick that will stay rock hard for you to gag on nightly. Also, as the song says, " My boyfriends back and he's gonna save my reputation." remember when you date a black man your song becomes, " My boyfriends black and he's gonna kick your ass, hey nah hey nah my boyfriends black." In any event sweetie, your friends are jealous that they don't have the gall to ride a giant black cock on a regular basis. While your friends turn green I will remain beautiful.
Love B.

Dear Bianca,

I am a DL brotha who reads this awesome magazine in my bathroom on a regular. My girl's brother has been staying with us for a couple months and he gets it every month. I have fallen in love with your cattiness and though I have never seen you, I can imagine how beautiful you must be. From your description. I don't want my girl or her bro to find out that I read this gay book but I had to write to let you know that I

MAIL

Bianca is interested in helping you solve some of the greater mysteries of life. Write her at Clikque Magazine,
1001 North Federal HWY, Suite 365, Hallandale, FL 33009
Or email her C/O Clikque1@aol.com

am falling in love with you. I would love to work your titties over with my tongue and give you some of this good stiff dick. Peaces out my sweet biscuit.
Your boy Mo

Dearest Mo,
Thanks for your letter and your being charmed by my beauty. You are a sick fuck. I will not ever get involved with another DL man. The only DL man I want is the one who stays down low below my waistline at all times. I like my men manly, thuggish, prison types but they must know fully well that they like girls like me. Self made women not born fish. You are indispicable and I hope your girl finds out that you are a bottom that is getting fucked by her brother. I did my research; you and your girl's brother are both slime. Don't write to me again unless it is to tell me of my infinite beauty.
The ever beautiful Bianca

Dear Bianca,

I have been incarcerated for 10 years and I just started receiving Clikque magazine. A friend said he knew you and sent me your picture. You are gorgeous. I want to get with you.
Please write me back
Big L.

Dear Big L.
Thank you.
The ever devastating Bianca

Dear Bianca,

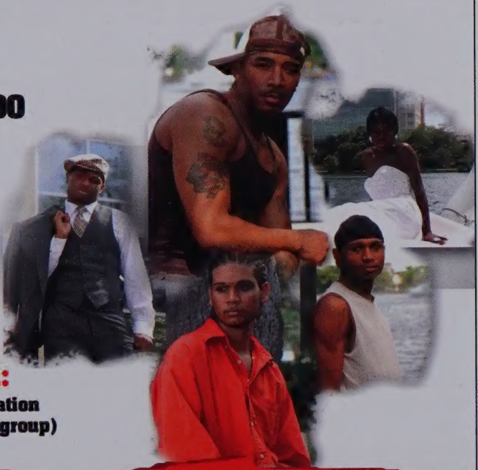
I ran in a pageant recently and did not make the top twelve. My friends said I was robbed. Do you think I should write a letter to the owners to let them know how upset I am?
This was the second time my friends say I got duked.
Flawless in Atlanta

Dear Flawless,
You have no friends. Twice you did not make it out of the prelims? Girl, you need a friend who will tell you how much of a mess you are, rather than lying to you about your being duked.

Your so-called friends are the ones working you girl. Trust me on this one, you were never prepared enough to make the twelve. Besides, I thought you girls ran to win not just make the twelve.

My advice is not to write a damn thing to the pageant owners. Prepare properly for next year's pageant and get one good friend to tell you the truth.
Love Bianca.

That's it for this month.
Until next month, on these same pages, of this pristine magazine. I remain forever flawless.
Bianca.



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Written By Lisa Knicherson

CLIKASCOPE

GETTING YOUR MONTH OFF TO A GREAT START

ARIES

It is time to make that move girl. The time has come for you to be all that you have dreamed of being. You have the raw talent and natural ability to succeed. The problem is that, you do not know how great you are at what you actually do. This month you will be given all that you ask for, so just go ahead and ask.

TAURUS

So you made the commitment and now you have to stick with it. Relationships are not easy, but you can work to make it all you want it to be. You may have made the decision to commit too soon, but is it really? I am not sure that you made the right decision, but you certainly have what it take to make the decision right. Go for it.

GEMINI

So you have been inconvenienced by yet another situation over which you have no control. You are handling it really well. I am here to tell you that, it will all soon be over and your life will be back on track before you know it. You have a good heart and you are a hard worker. Success is yours to enjoy.

CANCER

Lordy, lordy, just when you thought it was over it continues to rain. You are a strong girl and as Gloria Gaynor says, you will survive. You have come a long way with the reinvention of self. Don't let this one set back overturn all the strides you have made. Hold your head up and continue to shine. Remember that you are a star.

LEO

You have taken on more than you can chew. Remember to take smaller bites in the future. Many people are depending on you. You are success driven and will accept no less than perfection, but remember that very few people have your level of skill and or talent. This month you will come to terms with your reality and life will begin to be smooth for you.

VIRGO

Darling, it is your turn to step into the limelight. You are sexy, smart and talented. The man in your life is happy with you and you can do no wrong. You continue to badger yourself, but it is time to stop. In the name of love be happy with all the goodies you have in your basket and be thankful that you are still shining.

LIBRA

You are being selfish and you need to stop. The me, me, me, syndrome you have learned so well is hurting others. Think about the other person for a change. While you are gifted and life does revolve around you, people are beginning to tire of taking second place to your every whim and fancy.

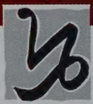
SCORPIO

It is wise for you to tell the folks why you are mad at them or why you are holding that grudge. You left the boy, he did not leave you, so why are you acting that way. You are the sexy one, but how about trying some care and loving-kindness this month? You will be surprised at how good it makes you feel.

SAGITTARIUS

You have been a good girl, now accept the tiara. You have become so charming and good willed that no one can resist you. Continue to do good, as you will reap all the benefits of your hard work and good behavior. A lot of people are envious of you, but even they, have to be somewhat happy at your recent success.

CAPRICORN



You have held it in long enough. Let it all out girl. You have a heart of gold and everyone is prepared to treat you like the princess that you are. Your culinary skills will serve you well this month as the man you have been waiting for is coming to dinner. Make sure you are ready to claim what is yours.

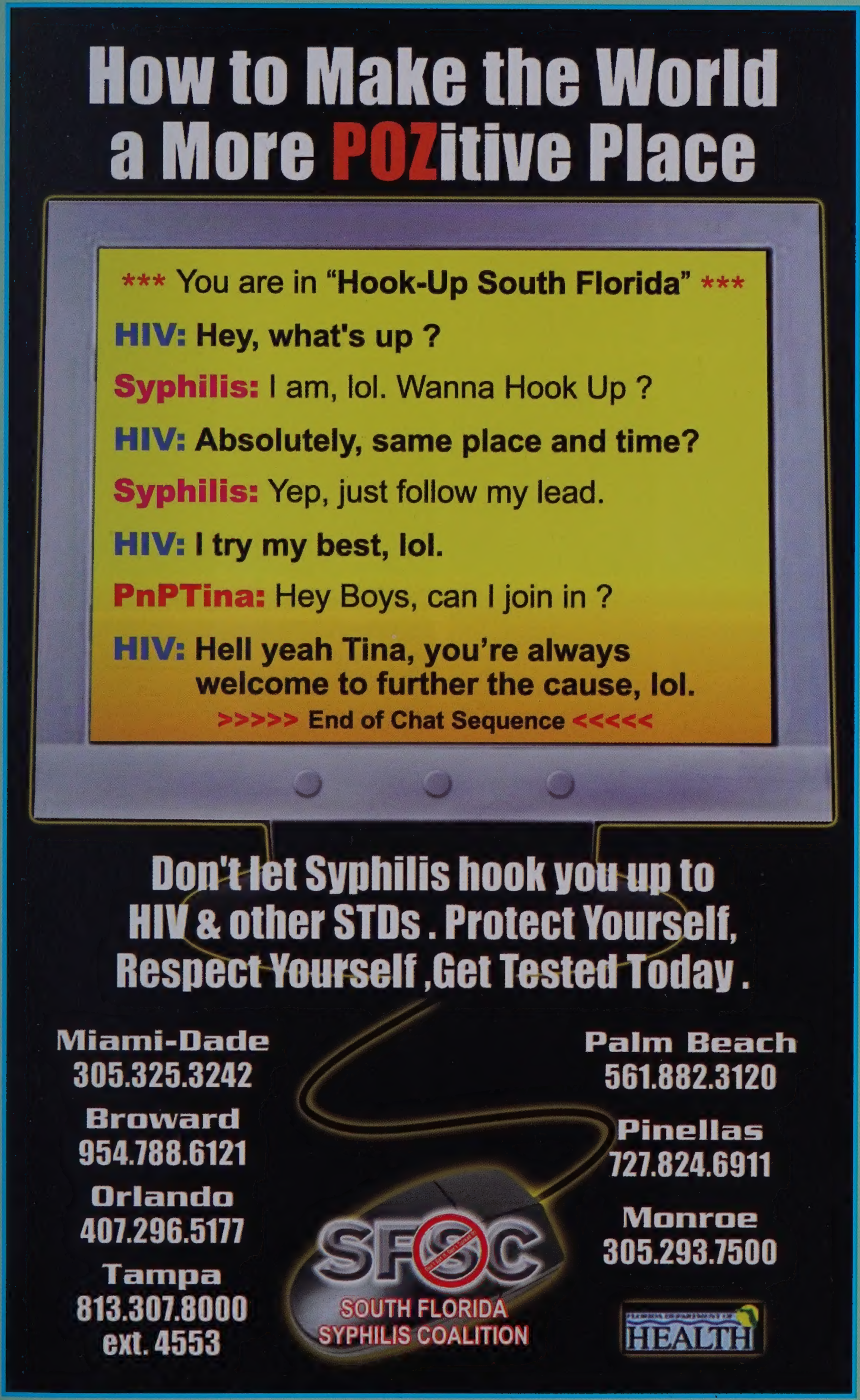
AQUARIUS

Okay, so you continue to dazzle the kids with your brilliance. Many are envious of you and are hell bent on getting you involved in trifling gossip. You are way bigger than those petty things, so be the man of substance that you are and rise above it all. You will always be at the top of your game and the kids will always be jealous of you.

PISCES

Your timing is impeccable and for that your get a letter grade of A. Your friends will be very appreciative of your kindness and good cheer. The boy you just released, may be not have been the one for you in the first place. You have always had the gift of discernment so continue to use it, as you ensure your own happiness. Live girl live!

CHECK US OUT ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB



How to Make the World a More POZitive Place

*** You are in “**Hook-Up South Florida**” ***

HIV: **Hey, what's up ?**

Syphilis: I am, lol. Wanna Hook Up ?

HIV: **Absolutely, same place and time?**

Syphilis: Yep, just follow my lead.

HIV: **I try my best, lol.**

PnPTina: Hey Boys, can I join in ?

HIV: **Hell yeah Tina, you’re always welcome to further the cause, lol.**

>>>>> End of Chat Sequence <<<<<

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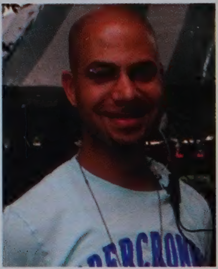
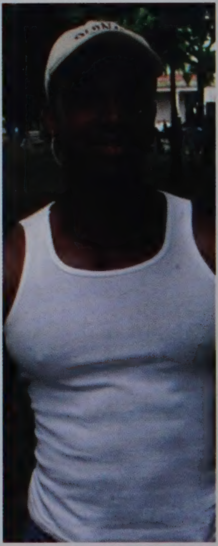
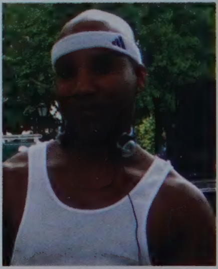
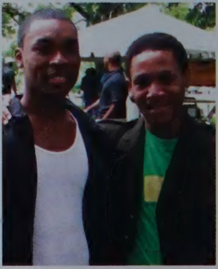
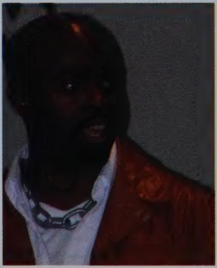
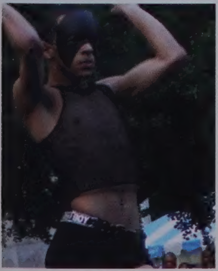
People Of Color In Crisis Black Pride – Brooklyn NY

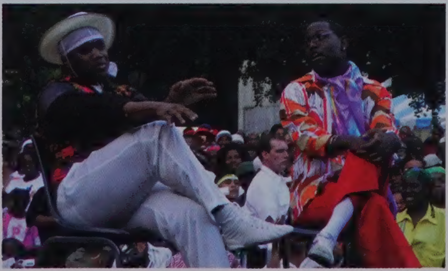


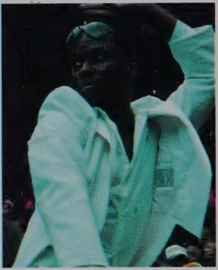



Pride in the City
VOLUNTEER

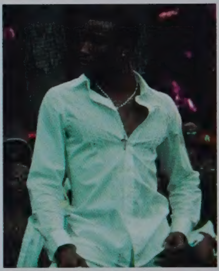


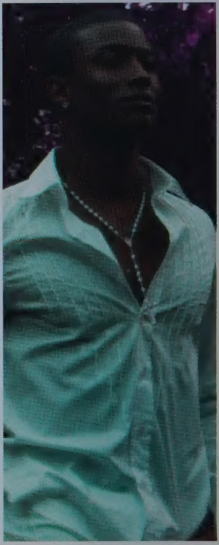


People Of Color In Crisis Black Pride – Brooklyn NY

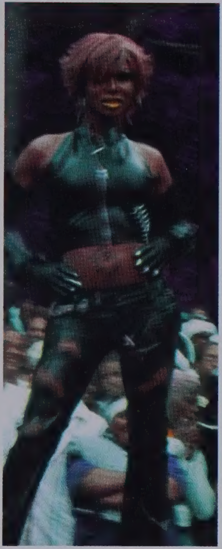


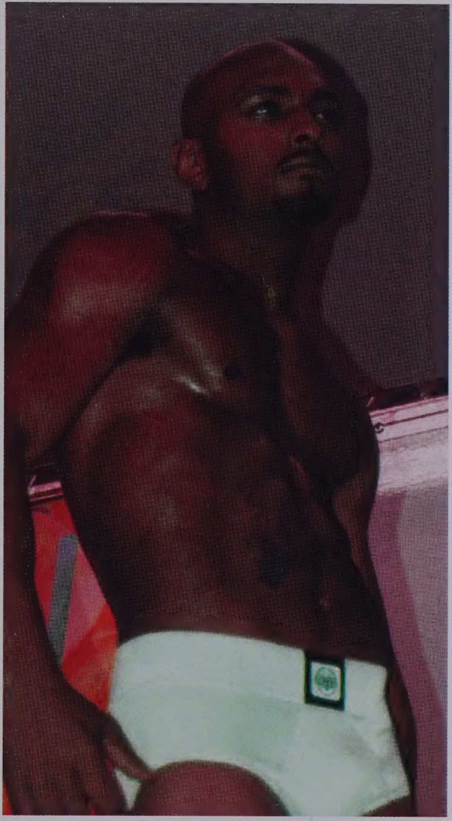
We attended a white party in the Hamptons where celebrities, fashionistas and the wealthy elite party without a care.... we made them all gag.

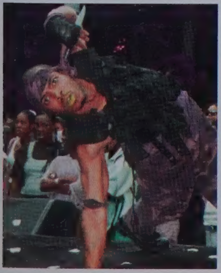




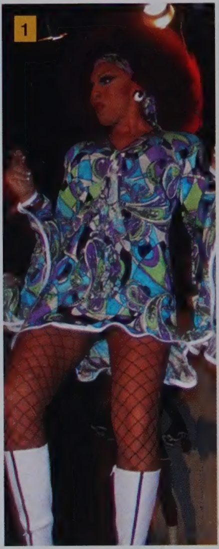
People Of Color In Crisis Black Pride – Brooklyn NY







Ms. Liberty & Ebony Ball In Atlanta, Ga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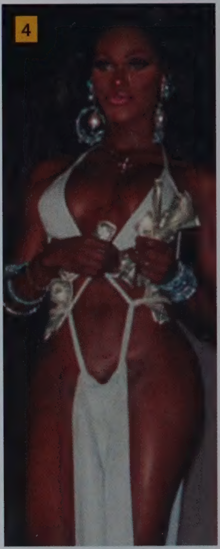
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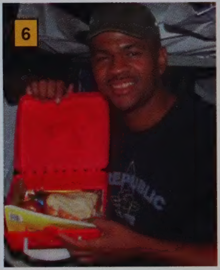
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1 Atlanta's Savannah Leigh 1st Runner-up - Ms. Liberty **2** Clikque Cover Girl Ms. Necole Luv Dupree **3** Congrats to Ms. Dominique Shapelle - Winner - Ms. Liberty **4** Clikque Magazine Cover Goddess - The Lovely Stasha Sanchez **5** bbbb bbbbbbb bbbbbb **6** Louis Nicholson showing-off his invitation to the Ebony ball - Talk about presentation, AWESOME. **7-10** scenes from the ccccc ball

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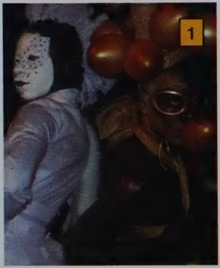
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Clikque Magazine "Caliente" Party In Houston, Tx

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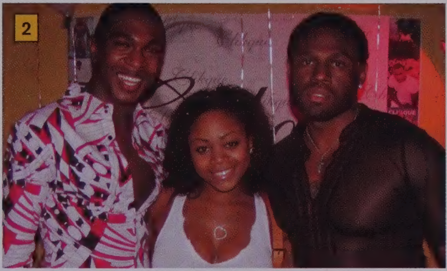

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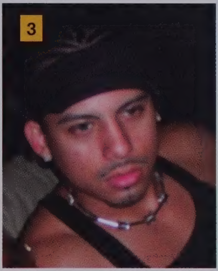

1 Clikque Publisher Dwight Powell. **2** Ex-Destiny Child sensation Latavia w/brother and George Smith (R) **3** Sexy Louis from Miami. **4** Clikque model search contestant **5** Kentwan (R) and friend living it up at Clikque Party **6** Cover Model Search Winner - Mack **7** Next Face/ Body of Sizzle2005 in Miami **8** Sexy twins Lenard and Bernard vying for Cliqkue Magazine cover

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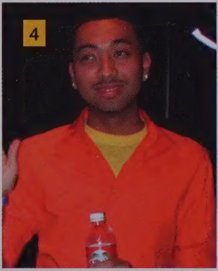

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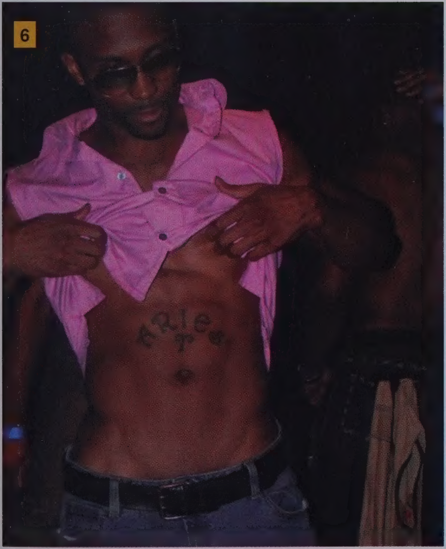

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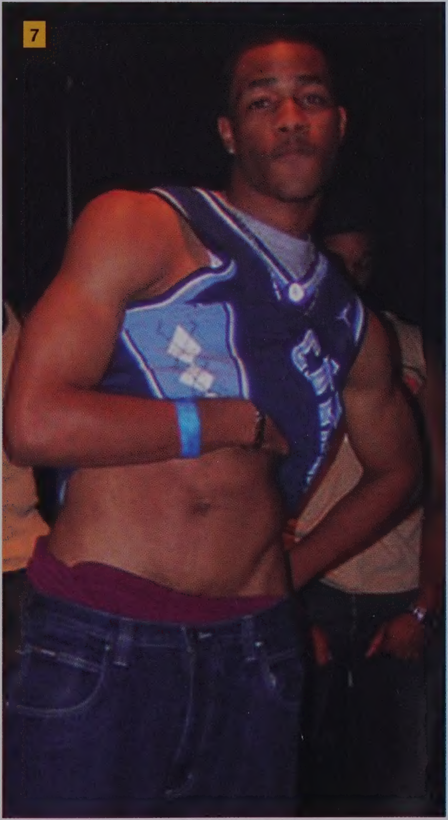

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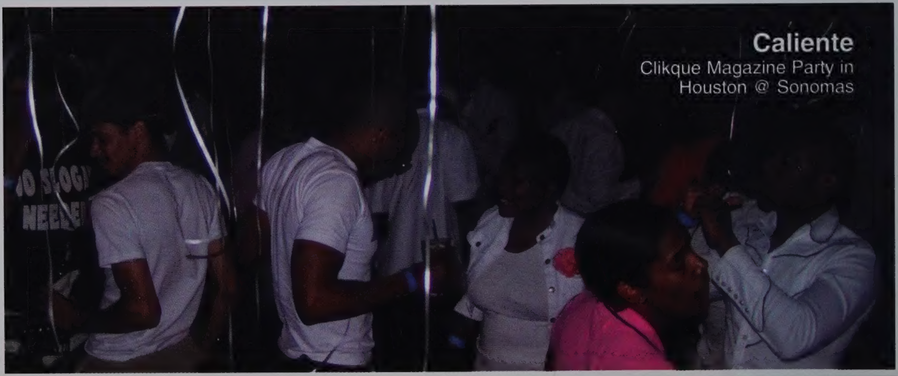

Caliente
Clikque Magazine Party in
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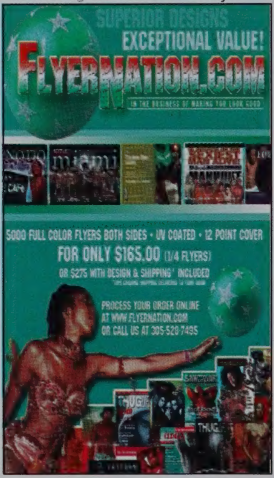
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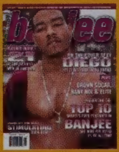
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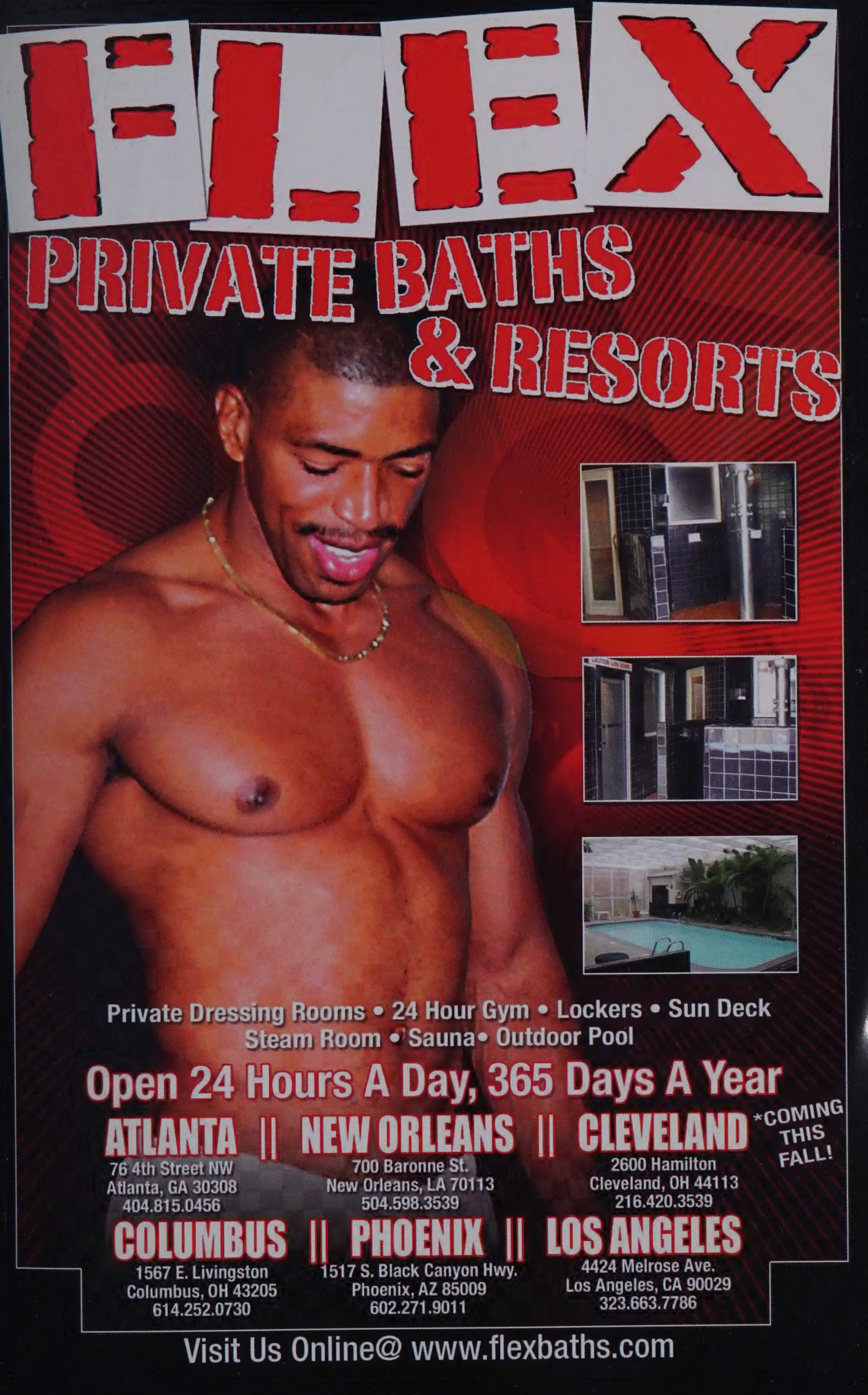

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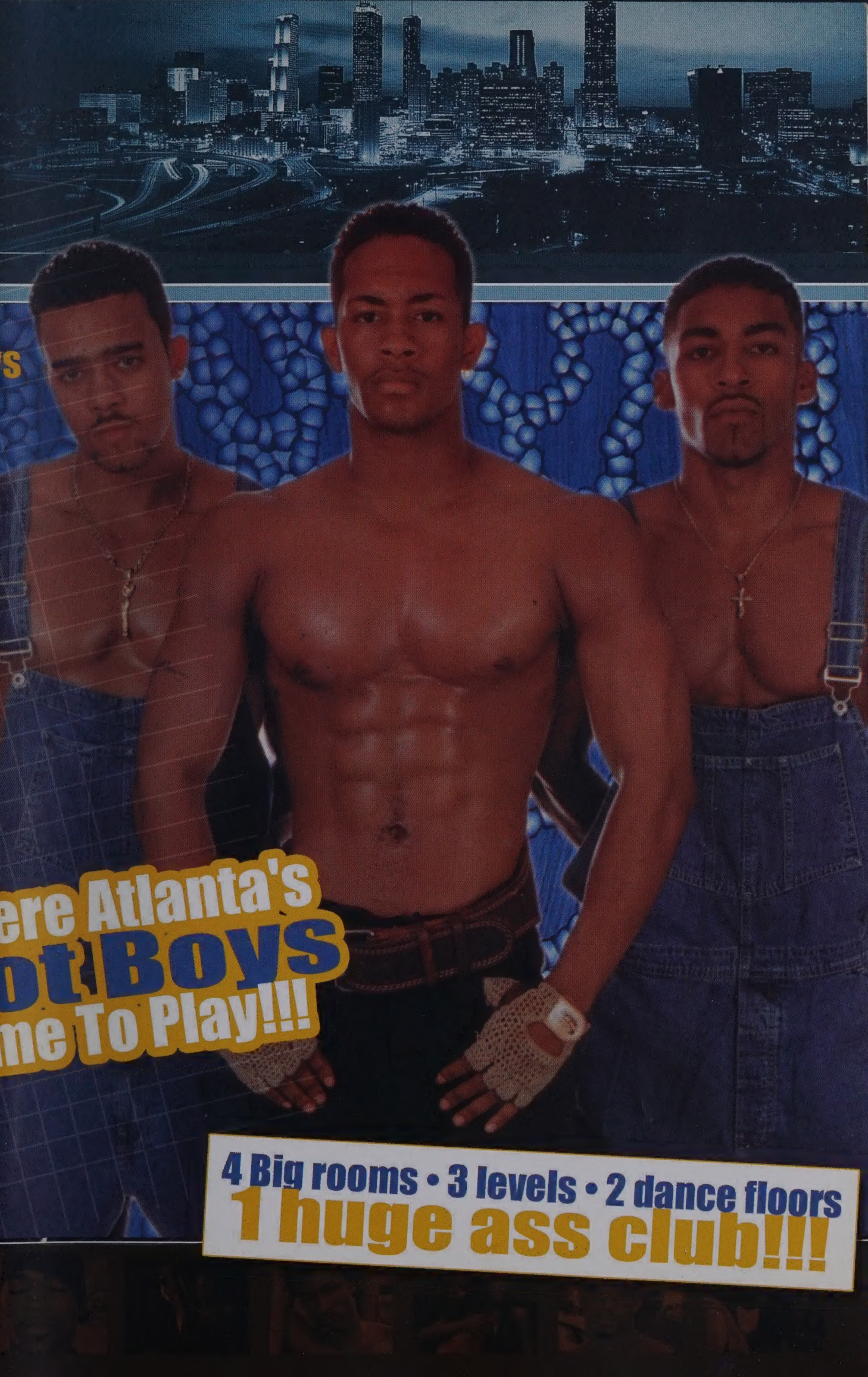
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GUEST EDITORIAL

The Following Is From: **Don't Sweat The Small Stuff** by Richard Carlson, PH.D.

Learn To Laugh At Yourself

Almost nothing immunizes you from day-to-day frustration more than — a healthy sense of humor—particularly the ability to laugh at yourself. Every long-term relationship gets to a point where your partner knows you almost as well as you know yourself. He will see your quirks, anticipate your unhealthy responses, and know the ways that you sometimes get in your own way. Even if you tried, it would be difficult to hide your true self from your partner.

If you are unable to laugh at yourself, you're in for a long, bumpy ride. You will struggle in your relationships because, as your partner teases you, notices your flaws, and occasionally points them out, you will feel and probably act a bit defensive. This, in turn, will exacerbate and highlight your weaknesses, making them seem far more significant. What's more, your reactions to your partner's comments will create additional issues for the two of you to deal with, and your "small stuff" will start to seem like big stuff.

If you look around at the happiest and most loving relationships, you'll almost always notice that both people have an ability to laugh at them' selves. Both partners will have the perspective necessary to stay lighthearted as their own imperfections come to the surface. This creates an environment where occasional teasing or kidding around is okay, and where one feels safe in making observations or suggestions. Your relationship has the chance to deepen and grow because both parties feel safe.

It's quite remarkable to observe what happens to a potentially heated interaction when someone is able to keep their sense of humor. In most cases, the situation is diffused and simply melts away. For example, we were sharing time with another couple when the woman made a slightly snide comment to her husband. Specifically, she said, "You talk too much." His response speaks to the point of this strategy. He laughed to himself and said, very gently, "You're right, I sure can dominate a conversation." More than his words, his ability to see a grain of truth in his wife's statement, to remain humble, and to be willing to chuckle at his own tendency resolved the situation before it had a chance to gain any momentum. Often, when you keep your sense of humor and remain humble, your partner will sense when he has been too harsh and will end up apologizing for his comment. Even if this doesn't happen, it doesn't really matter because to you, it was no big deal to begin with.

Over the years, we've seen hundreds of similar conversations turn ugly because, instead of keeping a sense of humor and remaining lighthearted, the person on the receiving end of the not-so-nice comment became defensive and took himself too seriously. His inability to have a sense of humor encouraged him to lash back, argue, or start a fight.

When someone takes himself

too seriously, you can sense it, even when he keeps his reactions to himself. His mood changes, as do his mannerisms, his tone of voice, and his body language. There are no two ways about it: Without a sense of humor, you end up suffering.

Remember that, as wonderful as you are, your partner spends a great deal of time with you. If he or she makes occasional observations that are less than sugar-coated, there may be a grain of truth in what they are saying. But even if they are off base entirely, it's probably in your best interest to simply let it go—laugh it off. By laughing at yourself, not taking yourself so seriously, you will become much easier to be around. Your partner won't feel as though she has to walk around on eggshells, making sure you don't get upset. And in the end, because you will have created a more nourishing and safe environment for your partner, your relationship will be more loving and a heck of lot more fun.

Thanks for your support of Clikque Magazine and see you at the White Party Friday November 26th @ Pure Nightlife - Miami

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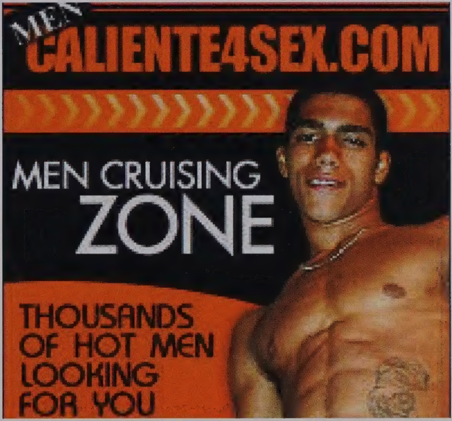
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By Howard Grossman, MD

Reaping the benefits of new HIV drugs?

As HIV treatments improve, it is time to consider a higher standard for patients—one that involves more than doing "pretty well." It's time to reconsider a mindset in HIV treatment that says a patient regimen shouldn't be switched until it has completely failed.

Next year marks the 10-year anniversary of highly active antiretroviral therapy for HIV. Great strides have been made since those early days of HIV treatment, when suppressing HIV came at a price that included multiple doses of many pills and serious side effects that could make treatment difficult to tolerate.

In the past year alone, six HIV drugs have been approved, including two new once-a-day combination tablets that contain two of the medications required for triple-drug therapy. Some of these new drugs have real advantages over older drugs, including fewer side effects, no food restrictions, infrequent drug resistance, and the convenience of one pill, once a day dosing. In fact, the new once-a-day combination pills mean that for the first time HIV therapy for some patients can be reduced to just two tablets taken once a day.

More treatment choice is great news for doctors and patients. I don't have a single patient who wouldn't rather swallow one or two pills instead of 20. More treatment options mean patients can better manage side effects as well by choosing drugs that can minimize anemia, high cholesterol or kidney problems based on their current health risks.

But are patients getting that choice? HIV treatment options are improving every year, but the habits and expectations of some doctors and patients seem to be stuck in the past. As a result, many people with HIV may be needlessly dealing with cumbersome dosing schedules for drugs that may cause serious side effects and may not even suppress the virus as effectively as others options.

Why do some doctors and patients prefer to stick with older HIV treatments even as new alternatives appear? There are a lot of possible answers. First, although the FDA must find new drugs to be safe and effective before approving them, some doctors are concerned that newer drugs may be less reliable than their older counterparts. These doctors may prefer using familiar drugs and resist making changes when current treatment combinations work "pretty well."

Second, the most often repeated mantra of many docs is "if it's not broken, don't fix it." This made sense when our only criterion for success was an undetectable viral load. When I look at my patients, however, and see elevated cholesterols and triglycerides, which may predispose patients to an increased risk for cardiac disease, or severe changes in body shape and diabetes, it sure looks broken to me—especially when those patients have other easier options with fewer side effects.

As therapies improve, it's time to consider a higher standard for patients, one that involves more than doing "pretty well." In fact, it's time to reconsider a mindset in HIV treatment that says a patient's regimen shouldn't be switched until it has completely failed.

Those ideas may have made sense 10 years ago in the early days of combination therapy. Back then, patients and physicians were justifiably relieved to have new weapons to fight HIV. In those days, complex daily dosing regimens and serious side effects, from diarrhea to dramatic changes in body fat (also known as lipodystrophy) seemed unavoidable. With limited drug choices, it was simply the price to be paid for suppressing the virus.

Some patients still have little choice but to live with significant side effects—usually because they have a long HIV treatment history. But others may be living with problems like lipodystrophy, painful neuropathy, or severe fatigue that are caused more by circumstance than medical necessity. For many patients the improved treatments that are now available can offer more convenient dosing with fewer pills and even once-a-day dosing, reduced side effects or different risks, and a better profile on resistance—all possibly contributing to more effective suppression of HIV.

Of course, switching therapies should never be done lightly, but proactively changing drugs to try to improve outcomes or quality of life is an important consideration—one that is more possible today than ever before.

If you haven't had a frank discussion with your doctor lately, it may be time to ask if the HIV medications you're taking are still your best options, or if potentially better and easier-to-take medications are available. If you haven't started HIV therapy because you're concerned about side effects, it's worth talking to your doctor about the newer drugs available.

Times are changing. Treatments are getting better. Make sure you're reaping those benefits.

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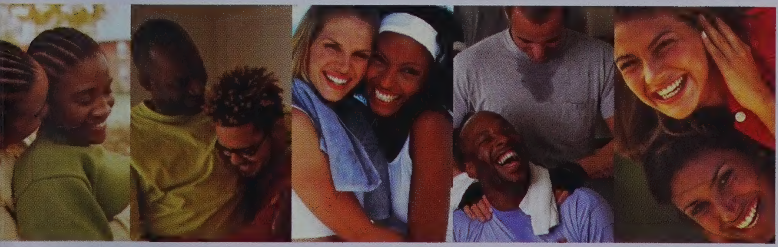

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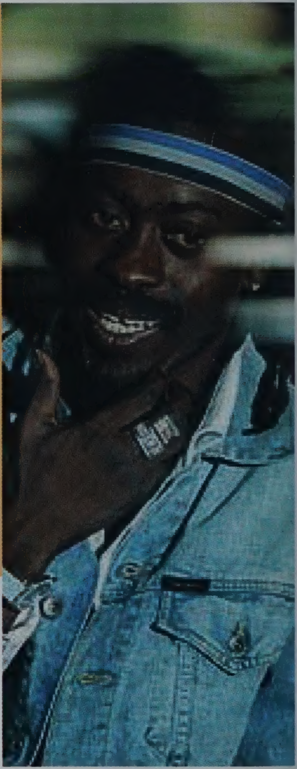
MCs AND HATE SPEAK: SMOKE AND MIRRORS



It is said that the past is prologue. The poetic truth of this proverb scares me when I contemplate the hate music made by an increasing number of rappers and dance hall performers. I cringe at the vision of thousands of my young sisters and brothers listening to a litany of lyrics casting women as sexual toys to be used and discarded and gay men as perverts (and sometimes sexual toys) to be beaten and killed While sexist and homophobic language can be found in some of the early rap classics, the animus toward all who are or perceived to be feminine has heightened in popularity and intensity. As the most important genre of artistic, political, cultural and sexual discourse for young blacks and all American youth, hip hop has often served as a powerful medium of progressive social change. To the extent that it both mirrors and manipulates a myriad of popular beliefs, when hip hop speaks we must listen.

When rappers encourage black people to hate black people, we must ask why and then we must act in order to save ourselves from ourselves. Whether we see the hate speaking artist as a messenger who reports the acts and beliefs of his people, or an instigator who incites those acts and beliefs, we must look not only to him, we must consider his mother and father and the neighborhood he grew up in, what his mother showed him, what his father didn't show him, the sermons he heard, what he was taught about being a man, the women he knew, how the men around him treated them, what men said of them in their absence, how he related to gay boys he grew up with, what his straight kin said about his gay kin, what if anything was said about what it means to love, the attitudes of his people, black people, when it comes to love, sex, women, men, sexuality, homosexuality, gender, and more. In short, we must look to ourselves as a people, how we have or have not raised him, and what we have come to expect and demand from each other.

Throughout the 60s and 70s, Black nationalist artists like Nikki Giovanni and Amiri Baraka (then known as Leroi Jones) etched distinct borders across the terrain of traditional and newly emerging black identities. They articulated the values of this new "Blackness" as we were recreating ourselves, Africans in America no longer shackled by internalized hatred but now self-loving defiantly. As more masculinist factions came to dominate this movement, more animosity was directed toward the archetype considered most threatening to Black progress, the Negro. In this male-centered matrix, Black man and thus Blackness itself was presented as hard, domineering, tough, utterly masculine and uncompromising, the Negro was seen as soft, servile, meek, effete

Mr. Washington was lovingly raised by Anna and Leon Washington in Queens, New York and has lived in Atlanta for 11 years. His writings have been published in Clikque, Venus, Arise, Washington Blade, Southern Voice, Atlanta Voice, Atlanta Journal-Constitution. He currently serves as the Volunteer and Training Coordinator for Positive Impact, which provides mental health services for people affected by HIV. He can be reached at cwash360@cs.com.

and accomodating. Regardless of his actual sexual orientation, the Negro was thus viewed as analogous to a homosexual male.

With the exception of an Angela Davis or Kwame Toure (then known as Stokely Carmichael) it was our liberation artists who commanded more attention than our political leaders. They gave the word and decreed who was black and beautiful and who was Negro and not to be trusted. Perhaps it was the license we extend our muses and our men that afforded writers like Eldridge Cleaver the entitlement to make odious pronouncements about women and homosexuals. Despite the pivotal leadership of women organizers like Davis, Fannie Lou Hamer and Ella Baker, many of the male leaders relegated their sister comrades to traditionally subordinate roles that were quite counterrevolutionary. In spite of the immeasurable contributions of openly gay agents of social change such as James Baldwin and Bayard Rustin, gay brothers were painted as immoral unmanly perverts who have no place in the revolution unless they were deeply closeted at the back of the bus.

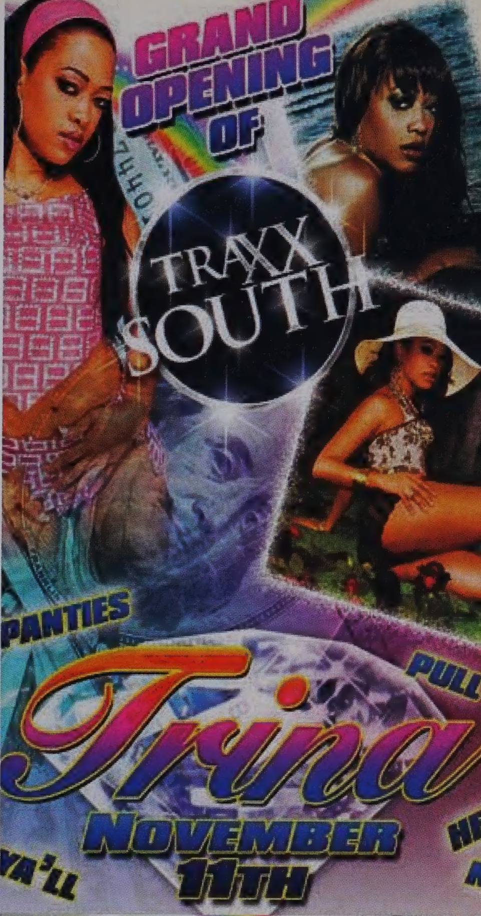
The brothers who hijacked the movement by reinforcing and exploiting these rigid codes ultimately sabotaged themselves and the rest of our people. Successive generations of black people are still paying the cost of this foreclosure. Their narrow vision of racial equality failed to recognize the intersectional relationship between racism and sexism and homophobia. They were too busy trying to beat "the man" so that they could be "the man".

Rap music is highly derivative of those fabled activists and artists of the 60s and 70s, considering its rhythms and highly stylized performance values as well as its overtly political nature. Activist hip hop royalty such as Public Enemy and KRS evoke the assertive eloquence of Gil Scott Heron and Malcolm X. The pimp, gangsta and thug drag sported by P-Diddy, Snoop Dogg, and DMX have antecedents in the "Sweet, Sweetback" and "Superfly" black anti-heroes of the 70s and the Cagney-style mob flicks of the 30s. Alas, along with the liberating traits passed down from these subversive roots, hip hop and the young men who create it may also have inherited a syndrome of patriarchal tendencies that were passed on like an unchecked virus that overtakes the entire body. Perhaps if brothers had listened to the accurate critiques of black feminists back in the day instead of dismissing them as man-hating lesbians and pawns used by the white man to kill the movement, we might have spared a generation this crisis of self hatred.

As low as the U.S. rappers have stooped in their pandering to the violence embedded in our culture, in us, several dance hall artists have matched if not surpassed their depths of hostility. Buju Banton and Beenie Man's invocations of murdering and torturing gay men are directed toward the millions of young men from Kingston to Brooklyn who revere them as much as U.S. rappers. How widely and deeply has this pan-African exchange of homo-hatred spread throughout the Diaspora?

The homophobic and misogynist attitudes broadcast by several of today's rap artists are inextricably connected to the practices of the patriarchy known as the United States. We often highlight the links between this dys-

SMOKE & MIRRORS CONTINUES ON PAGE 14



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SMOKE & MIRRORS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

functional flexing and the keloid scars inflicted by a continuum of oppression from 17th century slavery through the 21st century prison industrial complex. Black cultural and political analysts often underscore the commodification of black art by white moguls who profit from the mass production of hypermasculine outlaw tales that objectify and vilify women and gay men. But when do we at long last examine our own hand in the cyclical denigration of those of us who are not heterosexual men? How many women have to have their asses card swiped before 100 Black Men of Atlanta stands in public solidarity with Spelman College students declaring this as unacceptable? How many millions of records encouraging brothers to blow gay men's brains out must be sold before the NAACP identifies this as hate music and boycotts CD and concert bookings as have other organizations around the world?

Let us indeed examine the possible factors behind NAACP's decision to give Kelly an "Image award" after months of bootleg copies of his most infamous video debuted in black and other households across the country. In doing so, we may begin to at least ponder the painful lessons we repeat as we refuse to learn. The double standards demonstrated by responses to Kelly's antics and those of Tevin Campbell and Michael Jackson certainly suggest that hip hop serves more as an reflection than a source of our obsessions and anxieties about black men, masculinity and sexuality. Kelly was shown having sex with a minor and is more successful now than ever and black people apparently forgave him and forgot about it. Campbell was arrested for soliciting sex from an undercover cop and lost his career. Jackson was accused of sleeping with and molesting boys and black people have judged him as a certified predator without any evidence as compelling as the Kelly tape. Our responses or rather the differences between them suggest more about us than the actors in these scenarios. They suggest that we are less offended by the actual abuse of girls than the alleged abuse of boys and so we value boys more than girls. We consider the rape and abuse of women in our communities as a private affair that is not to be publicly challenged. We find pedophilia committed by heterosexual men much more acceptable than homosexual sex whether or not the same gender partners are of consenting age. After all, we seem to be saying, that despite his documented acts, R. Kelly is still natural man unlike Campbell or Jackson. When we do this do we think that our young men are not watching and learning? We show them that they can brutalize certain members of their own community and we will ignore or pardon their wanton acts. Yet we act astonished when they grow up to be women beaters and gay bashers, like a confused father that asks aloud why his

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SMOKE & MIRRORS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

son "cusses so damn much."

Black people recognize that no other being arouses more fear and hatred across this land than black men. As with any endangered species, healthy black men are precious because they are rare and indispensable to us. Those who achieve any notable level of acclaim attract much more scrutiny than their white counterparts. The media, which is painfully white, is much less forgiving of black men's transgressions and so with all their fame and fortune, they are soon reminded of who they really are in America's eyes. Niggers. Knowing this we are slow to hold our men responsible for their deeds, at least in public. We are more inclined to have their back even when we know their actions are indefensible. This is understandable. It is also dangerous. This coddling, this refusal to enforce accountability among our young men sends a message that we believe what is said and thought about them over yonder. That "you are not capable of being a productive, loving, free thinking adult". That "you are not a man." We say this every time we say and do nothing and thus comply when a black men beats his wife, or rapes a woman, or bludgeons another man to death because he flirted with him. We say this every time we say and do nothing to challenge not only rap artists, but the record companies and the venues like BET who may be staffed if not run by black people who apparently feel no responsibility for their role in producing and broadcasting these hurtful images and messages. We do this every time we tithe at churches that teach our young men to hate and fear same gender loving men and women. Our silence is our complicity and it seals the fate of not only present and future victims, but also the black men who brutalized them and the black boys who will soon be men who witness our inaction.

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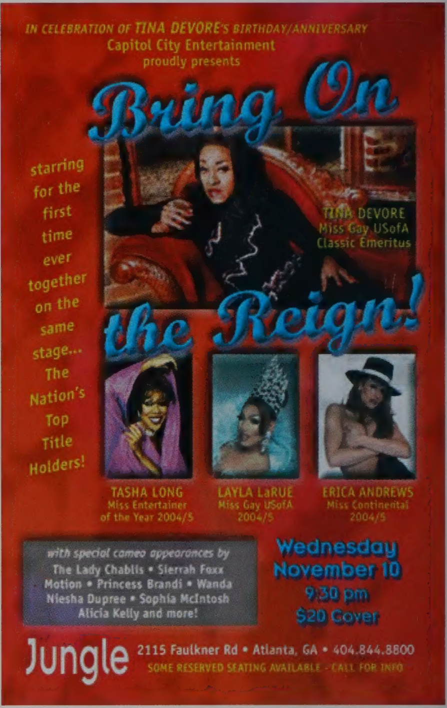

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Interrogations of oppressive hip hop may prompt assumptions that if the critic is white, he or she is racist, if the critic is black, then he or she is a sell-out conservative, and if the critic is a woman, she is probably hysterical, as are all women who challenge sexism are branded. Hip hop has been scapegoated and stereotyped as if it's a monolithic exercise in anarchy by more than a few critics and these unfair attacks should be revealed as such. We still must be willing to make and receive constructive critical examinations about these matters so that we can act. So that we can demonstrate not only that black-on-black violence and subjugation is unacceptable but that we are willing to look within and root out the self loathing. I am not willing to excuse hip hop hate mongers just because homo hatred and femphobia did not spring from this or any other commercialized art form. Nor am I suggesting that taking them to task is enough to address the source of this systematic abuse. We need to challenge these artists and our own extended community. The time has come for black people to shift from seeing ourselves only as victims of oppression and acknowledge how we enable the black-on-black violence and abuse committed by black men and sanction or participate in the oppression of black women and black gays and lesbians.

We can begin by shifting our discussions from the private spaces of our homes and families to the public and political arenas of our neighborhood and tenants associations, public forums, and the elected official we have elected to serve us. In the time it takes to read this article you could have written a letter or made several phone calls to address these matters with the hip hop artists, producers, distributors and cable stations. As black gay men, we certainly do not help our cause by bopping and twirling to beats that summon our annihilation without giving at least our djs proper readings for spinning hate on the floor. Imagine Jewish gay men dancing to Nazi techno and recognize the absurdity. After you're done with this last paragraph, you can call GLAAD and ask them what they are doing to confront not only Eminem but also Nelly, Beenie Man and others like them. Ask the women you know who are engaged in some feminist work if they could use your support in challenging the misogyny practiced not only by high profile rappers but also the everyday brothers at their schools, campuses and workplaces. Or you can make a donation to Men Stopping Violence, a male-led organization that rehabilitates men who beat women. We all have a role that awaits us through which we may actively and creatively participate in the salvation of our people. It is said the past is prologue. Do not wait to take your place in this struggle. It's later than you think.

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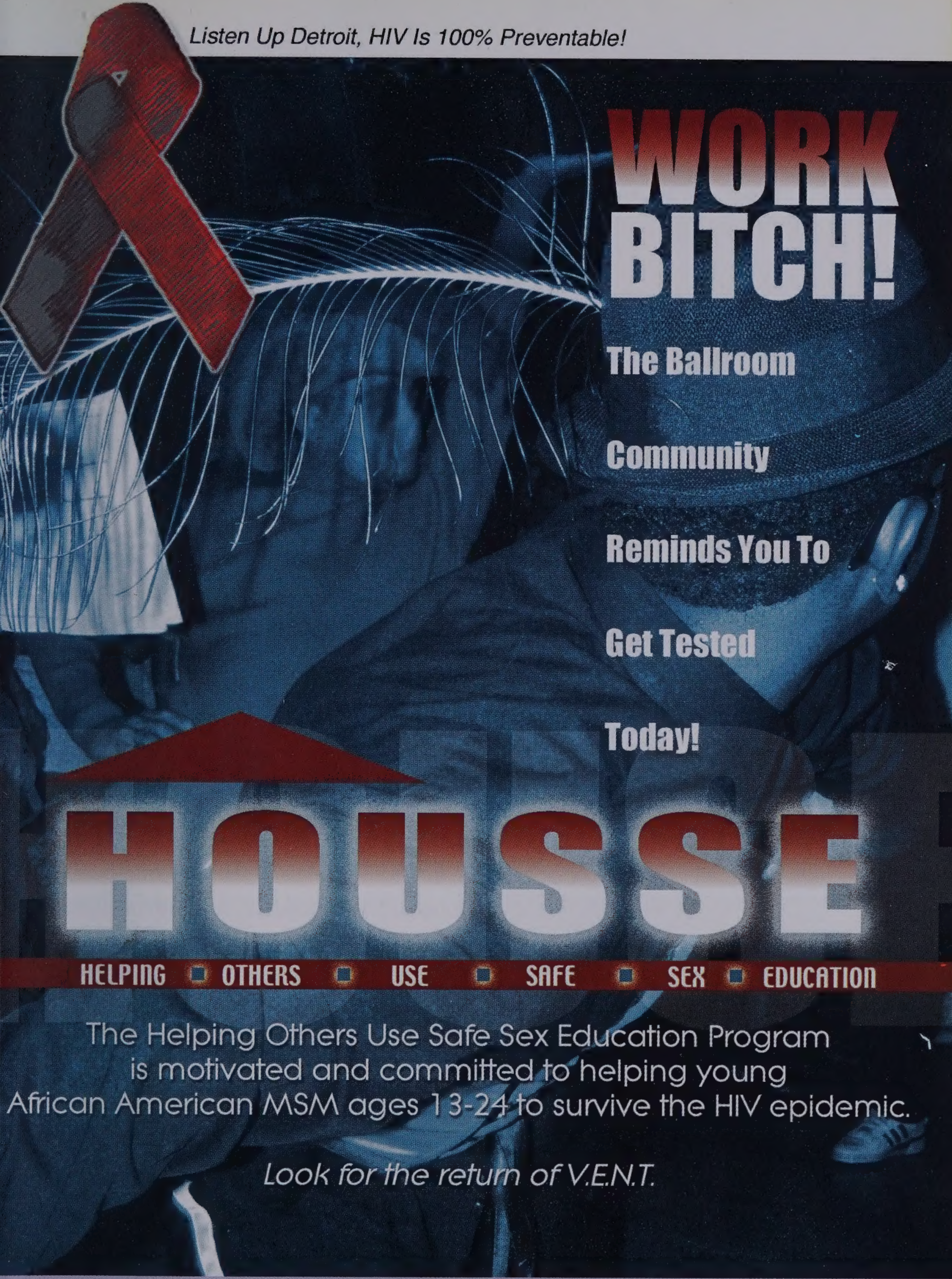

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Boom Bye Bye In A Batty Man Head

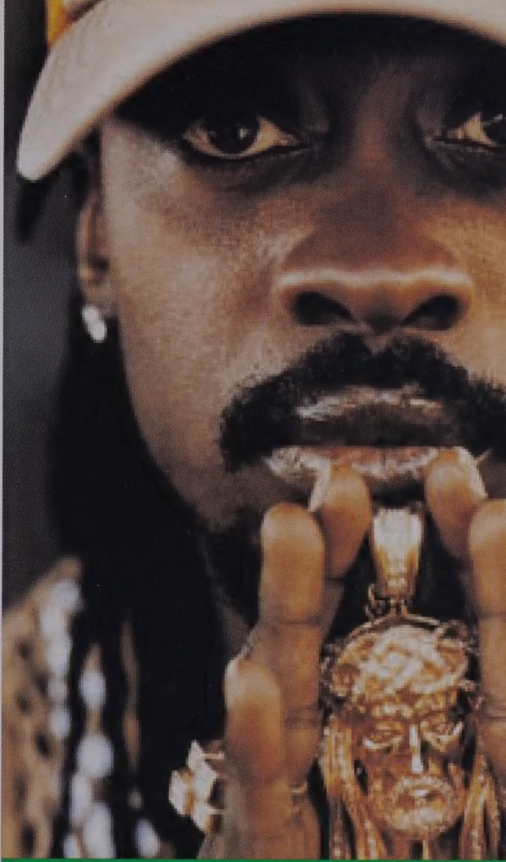
Over the past few months, the media have focused growing attention on the violent anti-gay lyrics found in a type of reggae music called dancehall. Artists in the dancehall music genre frequently sing and rap about hanging, shooting, stabbing, and burning "batty boys," "chi chi men," and "chi chi gals," derogatory Jamaican patois terms for gay men and lesbians.

Several organizations, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and the Jamaica Forum for Lesbians, All-Sexuals and

Gays (J-FLAG), have cited dancehall lyrics and the climate of hatred they create as contributing factors in numerous anti-gay hate crimes in the Caribbean and abroad - most notably the recent murder of prominent gay rights activist Brian Williamson in Jamaica.

Although homophobia in dancehall music has been a concern for more than a decade - Buju Banton made headlines in the early 1990's with "Boom Bye Bye," a song that advocates murdering gay men - the issue has recently come under greater scrutiny in the United States due to the surging popularity of dancehall singer Beenie Man. The July 2004 release of Beenie Man's latest album, "Back To Basics," led activists to protest several of his recent concerts in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and New York City.
Beenie Man's homophobic lyrics also prompted R. J. Reynolds to drop the singer from Salem's summer "Stir the Senses" tour, and MTV pulled Beenie Man from a pre-Video Music Awards concert in Miami. In Europe, Beenie Man and other dancehall singers such as ` and Bounty Killer have also come under police investigation for lyrics that incite hatred and violence against the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community.

In addition to their major United States-based albums that are relatively inoffensive, many dancehall artists, including Beenie Man, release "underground" singles on smaller record labels that contain extremely homophobic lyrics. In addition, many dancehall singers who use anti-gay lyrics have also performed with star recording artists like Janet Jackson, Missy Elliot, Mya, Kelis, Lil Kim, The Fugees, and No Doubt, and unedited dancehall songs with anti-gay lyrics are also frequently played on hip-hop radio stations and in clubs across the country. As the popularity and influence of the genre and its singers grows, so must the effort to educate the media, and the larger community, about hate lyrics.



When MTV dropped Jamaican deejay Beenie Man from its pre-awards concert last September after gay-rights groups threatened to protest over his anti-gay lyrics, it may have seemed as if the dancehall reggae artist had simply run afoul of Miami's strong gay lobby.

However, the 2001 Grammy winner, whose starting fee is $20,000 U.S. per show and has since had dozens of concerts cancelled — is one of eight Jamaican artists on an international anti-gay blacklist.

And while the campaign is being carried out by powerful gay-rights groups in America and the U.K., the instigators are fellow Jamaicans, compelled to action, they say, by their culture's deeply entrenched homophobia, which is killing them.

hate Lyrics

Brian Williamson, 59, founder of Jamaica Forum for Lesbians, All-Sexuals and Gays (J-FLAG), is found dead of multiple stab wounds in his Kingston home.

Police make an arrest citing robbery as the motive. But members of J-FLAG believe Williamson was murdered because of his sexuality, like the 30 other gay men they claim have been killed in Jamaica since 1997.

"He was our face out there; he was not afraid to go on TV, radio or be in the newspaper advocating for us," said J-FLAG spokesperson Karlene, contending that gay-bashing is rife on the island.

"That would be news to me," said Kent Pantry, Jamaica's director of public prosecutions. "I can't recall any case where that particular evidence came out in the allegations."

J-FLAG has consistently lobbied against the small but popular segment of entertainers with an anti-gay repertoire.

They specify pejorative patois terms for homosexuals, such as chi-chi man and batty man found in hit songs, and tracks with threatening sentiments such as Buju Banton's "Boom Bye Bye" and Beenie Man's "Han Up Deh," which has the line: Hang chi chi gal wid a long piece a rope.

"People here take these songs seriously," said Karlene, who asks that her last name not be used for fear of reprisal. "Whenever they are beating a gay person you'll hear them repeating the lyrics."

Britain's leading gay-rights group OutRage holds a vigil for Williamson in London and agrees to help J-FLAG clamp down on homophobic reggae artists.

Bounty Killer

BEENIE MAN

(Anthony Moses Davis)

HAN UP DEH

Hang chi chi gal wid a long piece of rope
Hang lesbians with a long piece of rope

DAMN

I'm dreaming of a new Jamaica, come to execute all the gays
I'm dreaming of a new Jamaica, come to execute all the gays

BATTY MAN FI DEAD

All batty man fi dead!
All gays must be killed!
From you fuck batty den a coppa and lead
If you fuck ass, then you get copper and lead [bullets]
Nuh man nuh fi have a another man in a him bed
No man must have another man in his bed

ROLL DEEP

Tek a Bazooka and kill batty-fucker
Take a bazooka and kill ass-fuckers [gay men]

THAT'S RIGHT

We bun chi-chi man and then we bun sodomite and everybody bawl out, say, 'Dat right!'
We burn gays and we burn sodomites and everyone shouts, 'That's right!'

BUJU BANTON

(Mark Myrie)

BOOM BYE BYE

Boom bye bye/Inna batty bwoy head
Boom [gun sound] goodbye, goodbye [e.g., you're dead]/In a queer's head
Rude bwoy no promote no nasty man
Rude boys don't promote no queer men
Dem haffi dead
They have to die
Send fi di matic an Di Uzi instead
Send for the automatic [gun] and The Uzi instead
Shoot dem no come if we shot dem
Shoot them, don't come [to help] if we shoot them
Guy come near we/ Then his skin must peel
If a man comes near me/Then his skin must peel [e.g., pour acid on him]
Burn him up bad like an old tire wheel
Burn him like you would burn an old tire wheel

BOUNTY KILLER

(Rodney Price)

ANOTHER LEVEL

Bun a fire pon a puff and mister faggoty (uh huh)
Burn a fire [could be literal or metaphoric] on puffs and faggots (uh huh)

CAPLETON

(Clifton George)

BUN OUT DI CHI CHI

Bun out ah chi chi, Blood out ah chi chi
Burn out a queer, Blood out a queer
Blood out: cut, stab, shoot; a particularly violent, graphic expression
Batty dem ah fuck and ah suck too much pussy
Blood out ah chi chi, Blood out ah shitty
Blood out a queer, Blood out a shit [gay man]

WHOA!

Sodomite and batty man mi shot up, Whoa
Sodomite and gay man, I shoot up... Whoa

ELEPHANT MAN

(O'Neil Bryan)

A NUH FI WI FAULT

Battyman fi dead!
Gays must be killed!
Shoot dem like bird
Shoot them [gays] like birds

WE NUH LIKE GAY

Battyman fi dead! Tek dem by surprise
Gays must be killed! Take them by surprise

LOG ON

Log on and step pon chi chi man
Log on and step on a queer man
Log on is a type of dance
using the right foot in a stepping motion as if to squash a coc-roach - the lyrics boast about crushing queers.
Dance wi a dance and a bun out a freaky man
Join our dance and let's burn out the queer man
Step pon him like a old cloth
Step on him like an old cloth

SIZZLA

(Miguel Orlando Collins)

PUMP UP

Step up inna front line/Fire fi di man dem weh go ride man behind
Step up to the front line/Burn the men who have sex with men from behind
Shot battybwoy, my big gun boom
Shoot gays, my big gun goes boom

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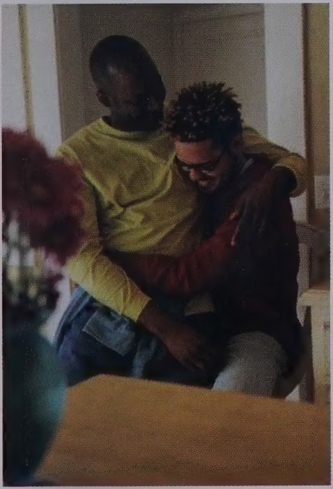
SAME SEX HOUSEHOLDS

First-Ever In-Depth Study of Black Same Sex Households In U.S Reveals High Parenting Rates; Income Disparities

Black Couples Have Most at Stake In The Same Sex Marriage Debate, Census Analysis Shows

A groundbreaking study released today by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute and the National Black Justice Coalition shows that Black lesbian couples are raising children at almost the same rate as Black married couples, and that Black same-sex couples raise children at twice the rate of White same-sex couples. They also earn less, are less likely to own a home, and are more likely to hold public sector jobs. For all these reasons, Black same-sex couples have more to gain from the legal protections of marriage, and more to lose if states pass amendments banning marriage and other forms of partner recognition.



The study, titled Black Same-Sex Households in the United States: A Report from the 2000 Census, is the first to analyze the demographics and experiences of Black same-sex households captured by the 2000 U.S. Census, the largest random sample dataset available on same-sex couples.

"As this landmark report makes clear, gay African-Americans are an active, involved, vibrant, and integral part of our communities. African-Americans make up 13% of the U.S. population. Black same-sex couples are 14% of all same-sex couples in the U.S. We are you," said H. Alexander Robinson, Strategic Director of the National Black Justice Coalition.

Black Same-Sex Households in the United States analyzes Census data on age, immigration status, language, disability, income, employment, home ownership, residential patterns, family structure, military service, and educational attainment for Black same-sex households. It compares Black same-sex households to White same-sex Households, Black married opposite-sex households, interracial same-sex households, Black opposite-sex cohabiting households, and Black single-parent households. The study reveals important and sometimes startling facts, including:

-Three in five Black female same-sex households (61%) are comprised of mothers raising children. Black lesbian couples are raising children at nearly the same rate as Black married opposite-sex couples (69%).

-Black same-sex couples earn about $20,000 less per year than White same-sex couples and are less likely to own the home they live in.

-Black same-sex couples are more likely than White gay couples to hold public sector jobs, which may provide domestic partner health insurance. Eight of the 11 state anti-gay marriage amendments on the ballot on November 2 ban or threaten domestic partner benefits provided through state and local governmental entities.

-Black same-sex couples are almost as likely as Black married opposite-sex couples to report living in the same residence as 5 years earlier, a key indicator of relationship stability.

"These facts underscore the hypocrisy and wrong-headedness of the Bush Administration's aggressive attempts to deprive same sex couples equal marriage rights while touting its multi-million dollar 'African-American Healthy Marriage Initiative' as a way to strengthen the African American family," said Matt Foreman, the Task Force's Executive Director. "This report clearly shows that denying the protections that come with marriage disproportionately hurts the ability of gay and lesbian African American couples to save money, provide for their children, buy a house, or prepare for retirement."

Black men and women in same-

GAY HOUSEHOLD CONTINUES ON PAGE 24

HOUSEHOULD CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

sex households are about 25% more likely than White men and women in same-sex households to have public sector jobs. Many municipalities and state governments now offer domestic partnership health insurance to employees in same-sex relationships. Because most of the anti-gay marriage amendments currently under consideration in the U.S. go beyond banning same-sex marriage and either ban or threaten domestic partner health insurance, such initiatives are a disproportionate threat to Black same-sex couples and their children.

An additional finding with important policy implications is that Black men and women in same-sex households report serving in the military at high rates despite the risk of losing their income and benefits because of the ban on lesbian and gay people serving openly. In fact, partnered Black women in same-sex households report veteran status at nearly four times the rate of Black women married to a man (11% vs. 3%). This finding is significant given that Black women are discharged from the military under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" at rates far exceeding their representation among servicemembers: although they make up less than one percent of the military, they represent three percent of all discharges under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

"Anti-gay leaders and organizations have long sought to divide the Black and gay communities, speaking as if there are no Black lesbian and gay people experiencing discrimination under key family policies. In fact, this study clearly identifies a large population of Black same-sex couples in the U.S., more than half of whom are raising children. These families should be offered the same protections and opportunities to benefit from state and federal programs designed to promote family formation, stability, home ownership, and other values that contribute to community strength and the common good," Mr. Robinson concluded.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute is a think tank dedicated to research, policy analysis, and strategy development to advance greater understanding and equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people.

The National Black Justice Coalition is an ad hoc coalition of African-American gay and lesbian leaders committed to the development of policies and programs that seek to end discrimination in our communities.

Black Same-Sex Households in the United States: A Report from the 2000 Census was written by Alain Dang and Somjen Frazer. Census data were provided by Lopez and Cheung, Inc. The study is available at http://www.thetaskforce.org/library.

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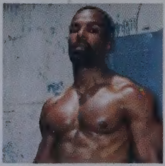

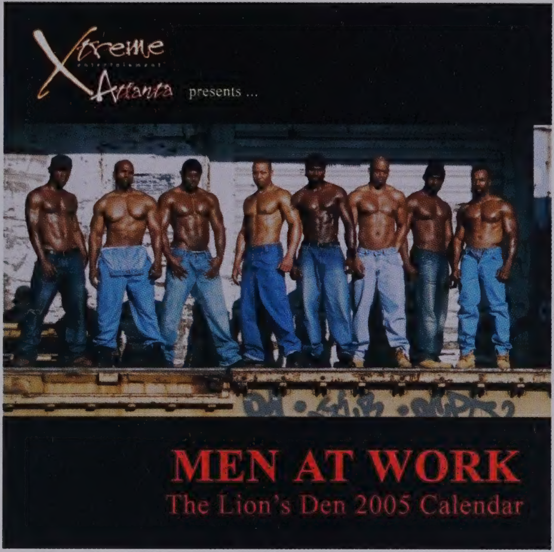
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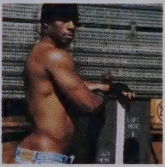

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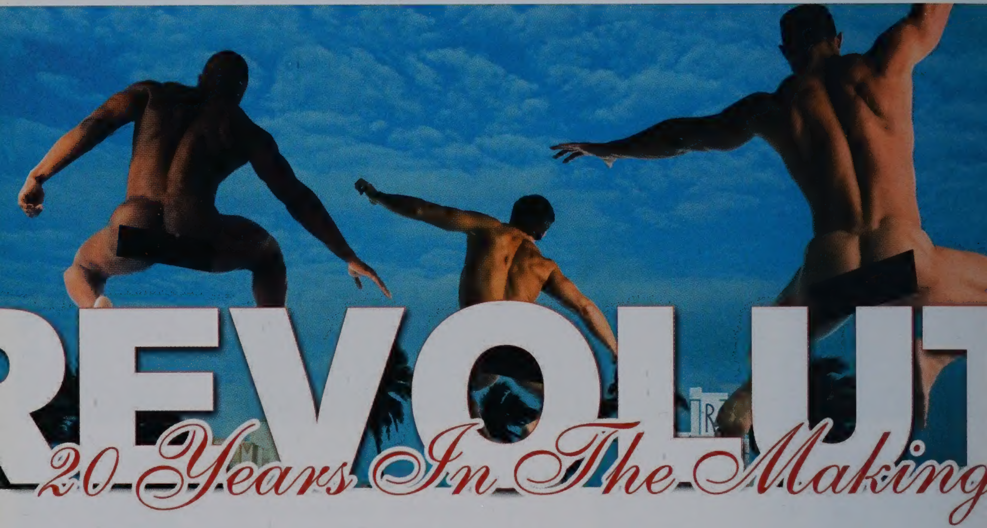
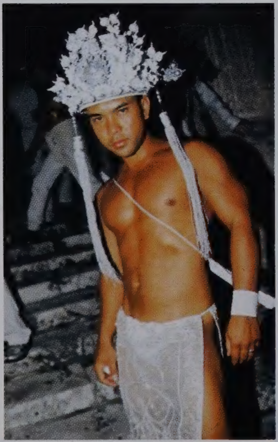


20 Years In The Making

THE WHITE PARTY
2004



This year, The White Party will have a slightly different look. It will be darker; a bit richer in chocolate. White Party, historically a predominantly white male circuit will host, under the partnership of Sizzle 2005 and Clikque Magazine, a huge kick-ass Hip-Hop party during White Party week. This is a first for us in our 20 years, said Ted Soho, XXXXXXXXXX at White Party. "From the moment we listed the Cream" Hip-hop party on our official site (www.whiteparty.com) emails have been coming in from all over the world. There is definitely a huge buzz about this party.

There are many aspects about this event that makes this a special one for us here at Clikque and Sizzle 2005. We are able to make a huge donation to Care Resource to aid them in the fight against HIV/AIDS and support to people already affected by the disease. Also, with Miami being such a huge melting pot of people and cultures, it's truly refreshing to be able to bring together different people from the entire world representing various ethnicities and languages. Although know primarily on the black gay circuit, promoter Dwight Powell at Sizzle 2005 will attempt to bring together white, black, Latin and all other party seekers, to one spot to experience the time of their life as he showcase the sexiest male dancers, the hottest Hip-Hop/R&B/Reggae at Miami's newest, spectacular party spot- Pure Nightlife.

Care Resource produces the annual White Party – a series of internationally acclaimed HIV/AIDS fundraisers – to benefit the men, women and children affected by HIV/AIDS that the agency serves.

10,000 revelers descend on South Beach to attend a myriad of high-energy, fashion-driven events, culminating with the 20th annual White Party at Vizcaya, long considered the "Crown Jewel" of AIDS benefits.

White Party attendees represent all major metropolitan cities including New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago and Atlanta. (Half of all White Party ticket buyers live outside the state of Florida.) Internationally, White Party participants come from North and South America, Europe, Australia, Asia, and Africa.

THE WHITE PARTY 2004

wednesday
// November 24th, 2004

WHITE KNIGHTS VIP RECEPTION

//// 7:00pm - 10:00pm - The Raleigh Hotel

Performing: TBA

White Knights is the official VIP/Sponsor cocktail party where Care Resource holds its major press conference and where White Party sponsors and special guests are honored.

This high-end soiree has become one of the week's most glamorous events of the week because of its high-profile location, spectacular foods, world-class fashion shows, and theatrical performances. The event has been featured in W, Vanity Fair, Glamour Magazine, Details Magazine, Ocean Drive Magazine, The New York Times, E! Entertainment Television, documentaries by Bravo, The Travel Channel, and the BBC, the Playboy Channel, Deco Drive and of course on all local TV news programs.

This is an invitation only event - guests include VIP's sponsors, press and public officials. Speakers at the press conference have included U.S. AIDS czar Daniel Montoya, Miami Beach mayors and major sponsor representatives.

Admission: **Invitation only**

VICTORY PARTY

//// 10:00pm - 5:00am

// Amika Loft Lounge & Discotheque

Spinning: Ivano Bellini

Being the official after-party of the White Knights event, the Victory Party always draws an eclectic mix of VIP's and hard-core party people. This year the event will take place at one of the newest hotspots in South Beach - Amika Loft Lounge & Discotheque - and will feature the sizzling sounds of DJ Ivano Bellini from SPF Records.

AMIKA Loft Lounge & Discotheque is located at 1532 Washington Avenue in Miami Beach.

Tickets: $15.00 per person

thursday
// November 25th, 2004

IT'S A FABULOUS LIFE - VIP Opening Night Event

//// 6:30pm - 10:00pm - Byron Carlyle Theater

This exciting White Party cultural event allows guests to attend the Opening Night of local playwright David Sexton's highly successful Christmas musical "It's A Fabulous Life" in true VIP style!

The festivities begins with a private pre-show VIP cocktail reception at the fabulous Roger's Restaurant & Bar in North Bay Villiage from 6:30pm to 7:30pm - hosted by a special surprise celebrity guest.

Tickets: $100 VIP package; $50 general admission

FABULOUS LIFE CAST PARTY

//// 10:00pm - ? - // Boy Bar

Join the entire cast of "It's A Fabulous Life" for a special post-opening night bash at North Miami Beach's sizzling hotspot Boy Bar.

WHITE JOURNEYS

//// 10:00pm - 5:00am

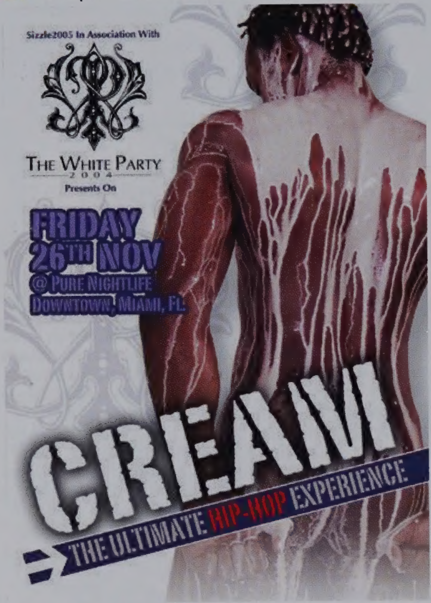
Join hundreds of hot sexy men for a night of heart-pumping music and post-Thanksgiving dinner fun at White Journeys.

Whether you like white or dark meat there's bound to be something for everyone at this out-of-this-world event!

friday
// November 26th, 2004

CREAM - THE ULTIMATE HIP-HOP PARTY

//// 10:00pm - 6:00am // Pure Nightlife



Join thousands of party seekers from around the globe along with some of the finest & tastiest male go-go dancers in the southeast for the very first White Party Hip-Hop party - Cream - which is sure to be one of the hottest dance parties of the entire week.

This exciing new event will feature Atlanta's premiere Hip-Hop, Reggae, R&B and House spinmaster DJ Smash in the Main Room

Tickets: $15.00 per person (in advance);
$20.00 at the door

WHITE HEAT

//// 10:00pm - 10:00am - CLUB SPACE

Spinning: Manny Lehman & Abel

This year the spectacular Friday night event, White Heat, will be presented at Club Space. As the name of the event entails, this all night bash is known for it's hot and steamy clubland environment.

The Main Room will open with DJ Manny Lehman with his unique energetic sound to delight you until 4am. Then local favorite DJ Abel will be at the controls to take you into the late morning hours with his distinctive tribal sounds. - Tickets: $60.00 per person

saturday
// November 27th, 2004

HEAT WAVE POOL PARTY

//// Noon - 6:00pm - The Raleigh Hotel
Spinning: David Knapp Performing: TBA

Heating up this year's White Party week is one of the sexiest events of the entire weekend - Heat Wave Pool Party - at the beautiful Raleigh Hotel. Swim and party with some of the hottest men from around the world all day long!

This fun-filled event features the musical talents of DJ David Knapp - who has played for White Party week for over ten years!

Tickets: $15.00 per person

THE 20TH ANNUAL WHITE PARTY @ VIZCAYA////

6:30pm - 11:30pm - Vizcaya Museum & Gardens

The "CROWN JEWEL" of AIDS fundraisers, THE WHITE PARTY celebrates its twentieth anniversary this year

with a bang! Join 3,000 beautiful people, all clad in white, and stroll through the manicured gardens, enjoy delicious delicacies from some of South Beach's and Miami's hottest restaurants, and dance under the stars on the shores of Biscayne Bay.
Located at Vizcaya Museum & Gardens, which boasts ten acres of the best renaissance gardens in the U.S. reminiscent of French, Italian and English gardens, it is a tropical masterpiece that reminds guests who visit of another time in Florida's gilded past.

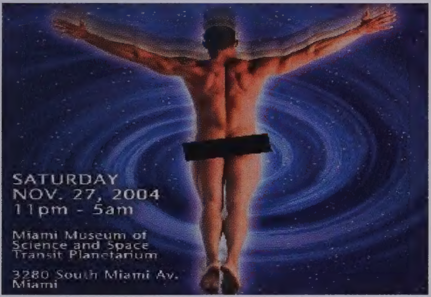
As they have done since the first year at Vizcaya, White Party guests come together to celebrate life in the time of AIDS, remember those they have lost to the pandemic, and help raise much-needed funds for the direct HIV/AIDS services that Care Resource provides. 100% of the proceeds from The White Party @ Vizcaya benefit the agency.

Tickets: $150.00 per person

Enjoy the "Crown Jewel" of HIV/AIDS fundraisers as a VIP! No waiting in line and have access to the open bar in the glamorous VIP room.
Tickets: VIP $225.00 per person

WHITE STARZ @ THE MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

//// 11:00pm - 5:00am - Miami Museum of Science


SATURDAY
NOV. 27, 2004
11pm - 5am
Miami Museum of Science and Space Transit Planetarium
3280 South Miami Av. Miami

Spinning: Junior Vasquez
Production: Michael Tronn Enterprises
Dance and party under the stars at The White Party weekend's newest spectacular event...White Starz at the Miami Musuem of Science and Planetarium. This stellar fundraiser which directly follows the 20th Annual White Party at Vizcaya features the extraordinary talents of legendary DJ/Producer Junior Vasquez who is sure to transport you out of this world!

Tickets: $80.00 per person
Party in VIP style at this years' newest White Party event. No waiting on line, access to the private VIP room and open bar all night long.
Tickets: $155.00

sunday
// November 28th, 2004

MUSCLE BEACH PARTY

//// Noon to Sunset
// On the Ocean at Ocean Drive & 12th Street

The tenth annual Muscle Beach Party, a noon to sunset event that is held at the 12th Street Beach on Ocean Drive, moves to Sunday this year!
This affordably priced fundraiser is beloved by locals and visitors alike for its great music, weather and opportunity to meet friends old and new. 3,000 guests will enjoy cutting edge music, fashion shows, dancers, and live celebrity performances throughout the afternoon.
Tickets: $30.00 per person
Brett Henrichsen - Brett Henrichsen has always had a passion for dance music. Working by day as a Marketing Specialist for IBM, Brett spent nights in clubs and record stores watching and learning from top DJ's and listening to his favorite style of music: high energy, vocal and progressive dance.

NOCHE BLANCA @ MANSION

//// 10:00pm - 5:00am // Mansion
Spinning: Peter Rauhofer
Production: Michael Tronn
End your White Party weekend with superstar DJ Peter Rauhofer and celebrated South Beach promoter Michael Tronn for a night of hot men, sizzling sounds and endless fun at Noche Blanca!
Tickets: $50.00 per person

monday (am)
// November 29th, 2004

WHITE HORIZON

//// Noon to Sunset // Club Space
// a. White Horizon
// 5:00am - ?
Spinning: Victor Calderone
The grand finale of White Party weekend, White Horizons, takes place once again at Club Space. This electrifying event features music master Victor Calderone who promises to take partygoers on a magical musical experience from dawn and into the sunset hours.
Tickets: $65.00 per person

A REVOLUTION. 20 year

[redacted]
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WHITE PARTY 2004

week of

NOVEMBER 24th - 29th, 2004.

Miami, Miami Beach & Fort Lauderdale

Tickets and passes on sale now!

THE WHITE PARTY 2004

20 years

The 20th Annual White Party presented by

COASTAL WINE & SPIRITS OF FLORIDA

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An HIV/AIDS Fundraiser Benefiting

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Featuring more than a dozen of the world's A-list of DJ/Producers including Tracy Young, Victor Calderone, Ivano Bellini of SFP Records, Bill Hallquist, Junior Vasquez, Barry Harris and Chris Cox, AKA Thunderpuss, Smash, Brett Henrichsen and David Knapp, Pride, Manny Lehman, Abel, Chris Wren, Oren Nizri, Peter Rauhofer and many more.

Venues include: The Raleigh Hotel Pool, Nikki Beach, 12th Street Beach, Amika, Crobar, Space, Boy Bar, Roger's Restaurant & Bar, Pure Nightclub, Twist, State, Vizcaya Museum & Gardens, Miami Museum of Science and some of the hottest clubs in South Florida.

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PROMOTIONAL PARTNERS: ***Aqua Girl, Black&Blue - Montreal, Heritage of Pride, Red Ball, Southern Decadence, Summer Camp Provincetown, Sizzle Miami05, Winter Party with the support of the Miami Beach VCA creating tourism partnerships.***

HOST HOTELS: THE RALEIGH

PREFERRED HOTELS: ***The Royal Palm Crowne Plaza***

MIAMI BEACH

Sizzle2005 In Association With The White Part

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THE ULTIMATE **HIP-HOP** EXPERII

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Get Ready For The Inaugural Hip-Hop Party That's Sure To Be
One Of The Hottest, Sexiest Dance Parties During White Party Week.

FRIDAY, 26TH NOVEMBER 2004

Join Thousands of Party Seekers From Around The World Along With The Finest, Tastie
You Will Ever Encounter In Miami. Hip-Hop, Reggea, R&B and House By Atlanta's

DJ DIMPLES In The Main Room Plus **DA ROOF** and **DA PATIO** Features

Come & Get The Pure Nightlife Experience

THE WHITE PARTY
2004
20 years

The 20th Annual White Party
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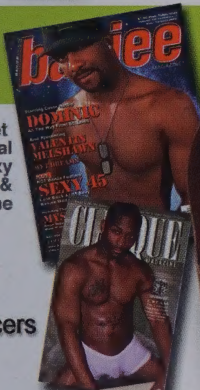

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Male Dancers
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PURE
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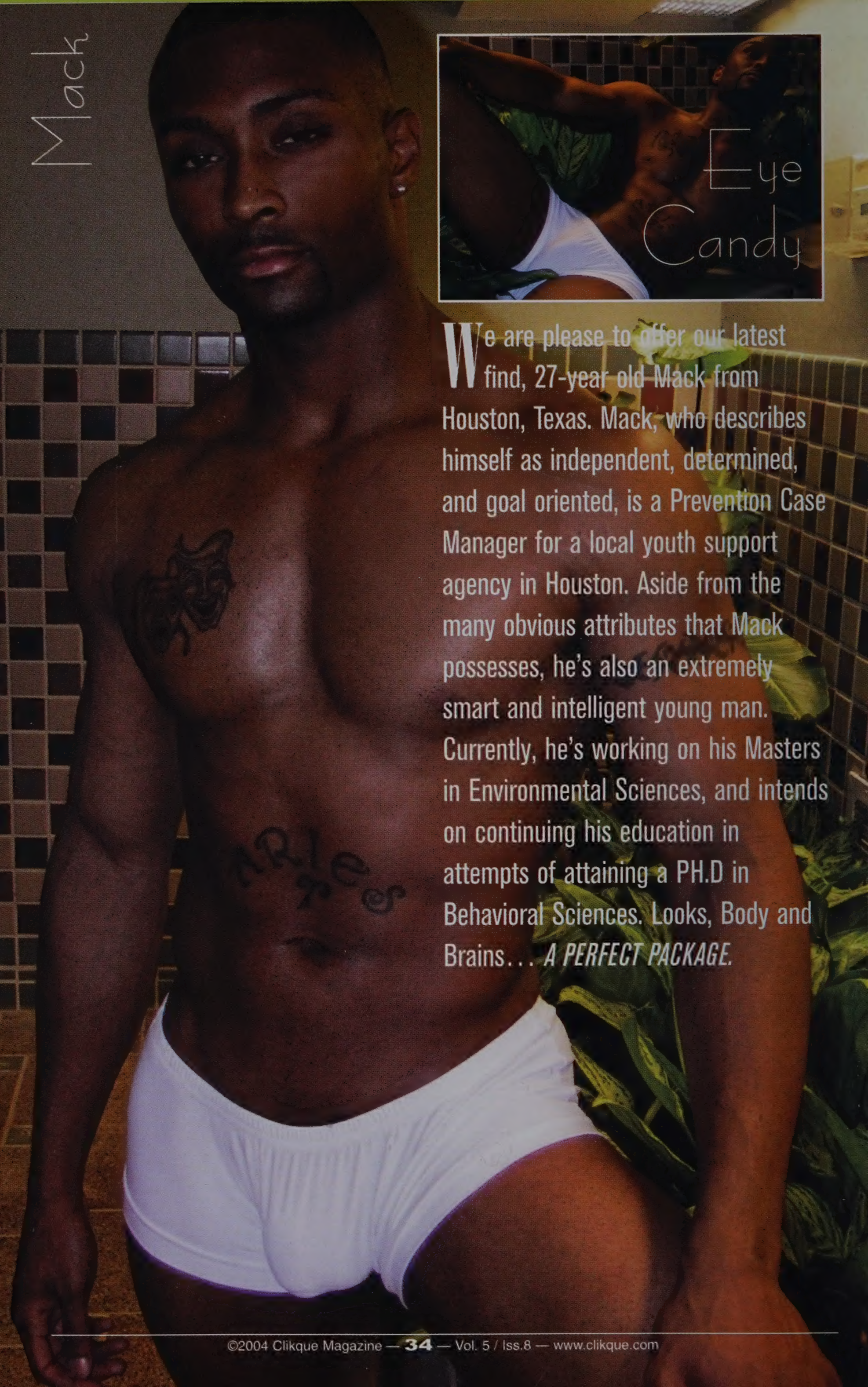
HOST HOTELS: THE RALEIGH

PREFERRED HOTELS: *The Royal Palm Crowne Plaza*

This Is An 18+ Event
ADMISSION:
$15 In Advance $20 At The Door

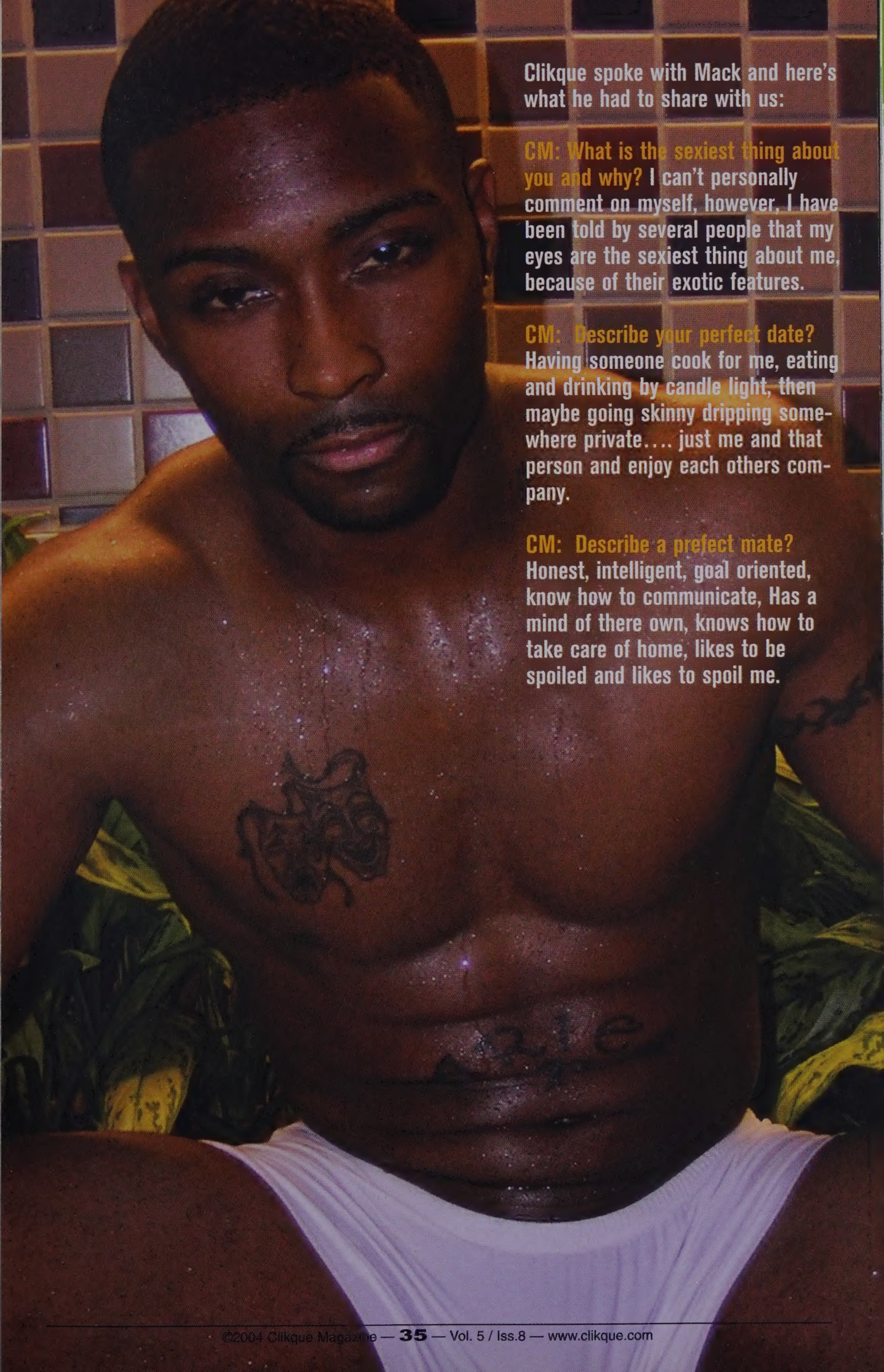
Submerge Yourself... MIAMI BEACH



Mack

Eye Candy

We are please to offer our latest find, 27-year old Mack from Houston, Texas. Mack, who describes himself as independent, determined, and goal oriented, is a Prevention Case Manager for a local youth support agency in Houston. Aside from the many obvious attributes that Mack possesses, he's also an extremely smart and intelligent young man. Currently, he's working on his Masters in Environmental Sciences, and intends on continuing his education in attempts of attaining a PH.D in Behavioral Sciences. Looks, Body and Brains... *A PERFECT PACKAGE.*

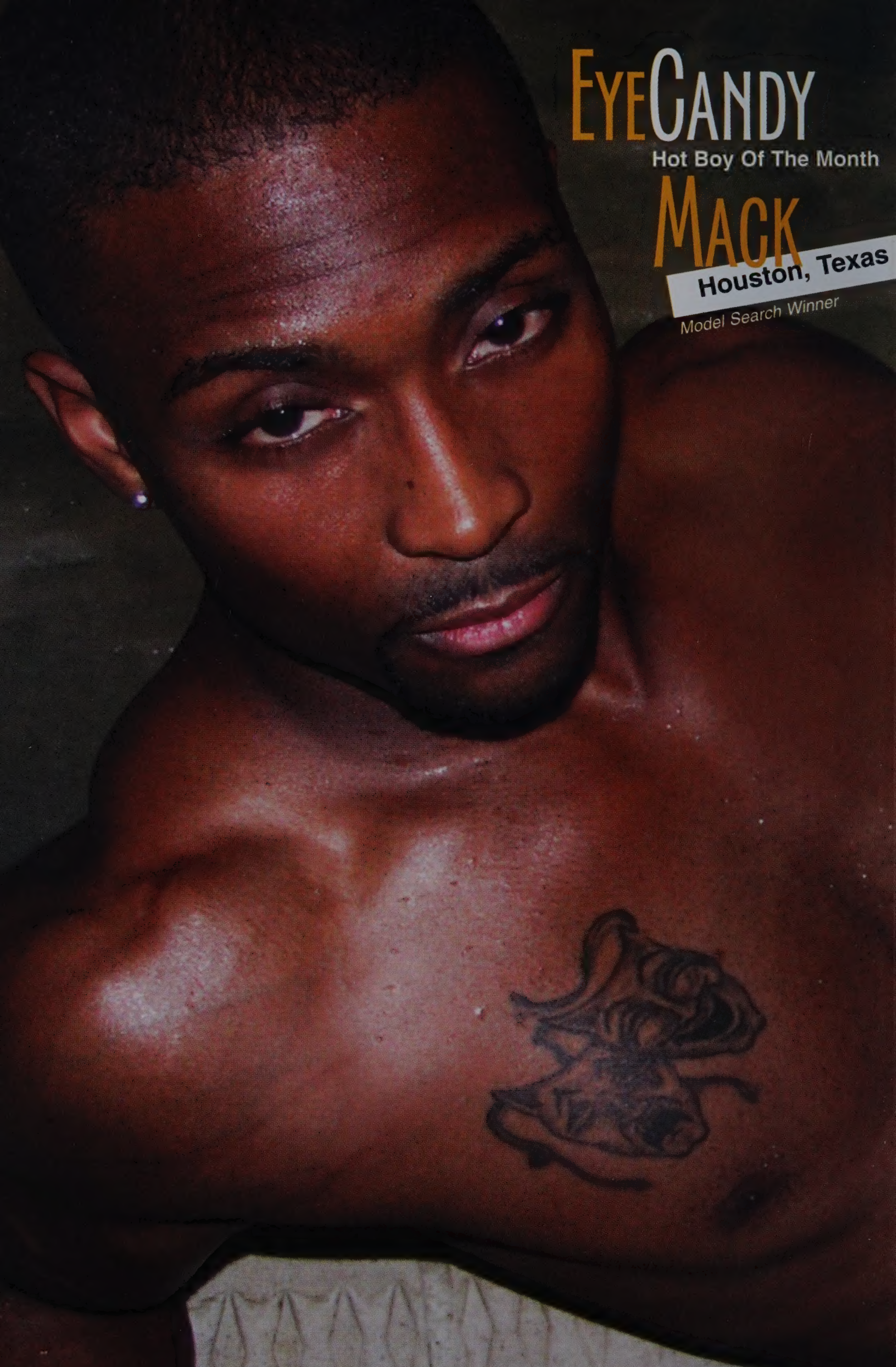


Clikque spoke with Mack and here's what he had to share with us:

CM: What is the sexiest thing about you and why? I can't personally comment on myself, however, I have been told by several people that my eyes are the sexiest thing about me, because of their exotic features.

CM: Describe your perfect date? Having someone cook for me, eating and drinking by candle light, then maybe going skinny dripping somewhere private.... just me and that person and enjoy each others company.

CM: Describe a prefect mate? Honest, intelligent, goal oriented, know how to communicate, Has a mind of there own, knows how to take care of home, likes to be spoiled and likes to spoil me.



EyeCandy

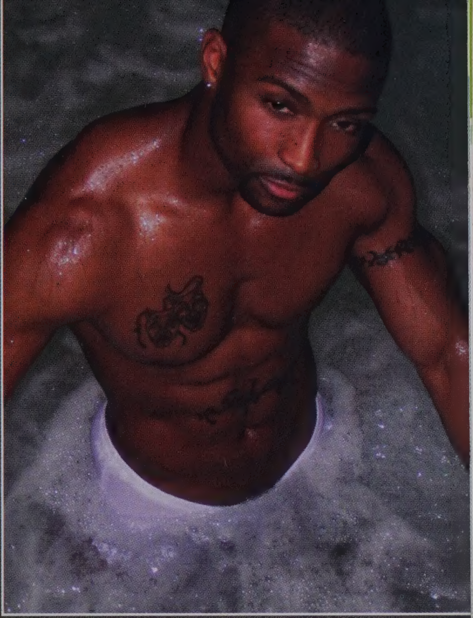
Hot Boy Of The Month

Mack

Houston, Texas

Model Search Winner

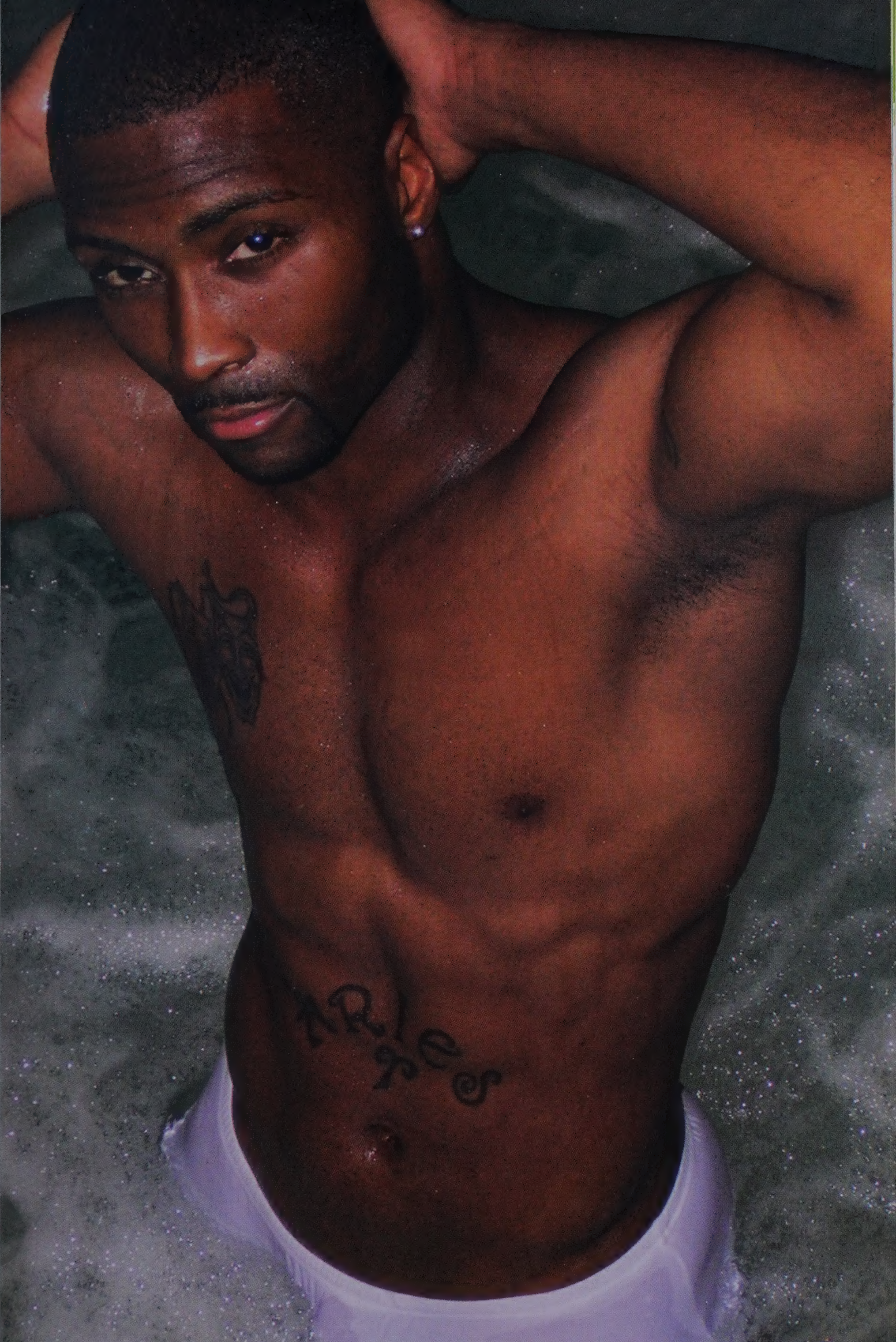
Favorite Food: Seafood
Favorite city to visit: Miami, FL
Favorite artist: Usher
Favorite Song: Nuck if you Buck
Favorite car: H2
Favorite Motion Picture: Scarface
Favorite T.V. program: Rap-city
Favorite Actor: Mel Gibson
Favorite Actress: Gabrielle Union
Favorite Magazine: Clikque
Most Recent Book Read: Developing the leader within you. By: John Maxwell



Mack / Houston, Tx.

Clikque Magazine November 2004 Cover Model

Height: 5'11 / Weight: 172 lbs / Waist: 30 / Chest: 42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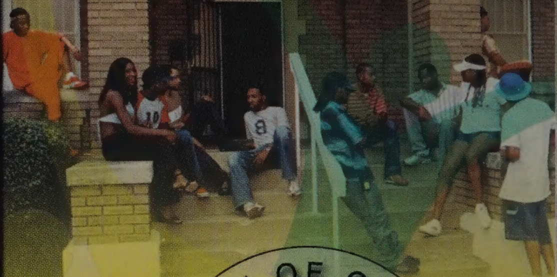

The House of Osiris offers great opportunities for young people. They can stop in to take advantage of outstanding activities like playing pool, video games, or to use our computer lab.

They can drop by to share their ideas and plan for upcoming events, listen to music or simply to watch the latest movies on DVD. In addition, young people can take advantage of computer software training, television production training, as well as take part in life skills and self-empowerment courses. It is our hope that through the cooperative efforts of youth and staff, education and a loving environment, our youth will be forces to be reckoned with in today's society.

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- Young Men's Support Group
- Leadership Workshops
- Free Health Screening

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- G.E.D., Technical School, and College Preparation
- Free CompUSA Training & Certification
- Television Production Training
- Personal Economics "Making Your Money Work For You"

COME FOR THE FUN

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- Play In Our Poolroom, or
- Play Some Basketball
- Enjoy Movie Nights On Our Big Screen TV
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Hours Of Operation
Monday - Saturday 1pm-9pm
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Is You Workplace Gay Friendly?

If you've been working in an organization where it doesn't seem safe to come out, it might be time to look for potential employers that may be more "gay-friendly." Working in an environment where there are other visible and successful GLBT people can have a profound impact on your level of comfort, motivation, and ultimately your performance. Use this checklist to seek out a workplace where you can do your best work.

This list is based on the seven elements of a gay-friendly working environment identified by Brian McNaught in his book "Gay Issues in the Workplace."

Tip # 1 A nondiscrimination policy. This is the most fundamental feature to identify. If an employer does not explicitly prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation, then you will have the potential to be treated as a second-class citizen. With this protection, you have the foundation to make a complaint if necessary.

Tip # 2 Company-wide education. Specifically, employers need to provide training for their entire staff about the impact of homophobic and heterosexist language and behavior. This means that GLBT issues need to be fully addressed in an inclusive diversity seminar, or ideally, in a separate workshop dedicated to raising awareness of particular GLBT concerns.

Tip # 3 An equitable benefits program. Domestic partner benefits, whether you may need them or not, are a basic sign that an employer wants to attract and retain GLBT employees. In addition, equal benefits should include features such as bereavement and "family" leave granted to attend to one's domestic partner, in the event of an emergency or major illness.

Tip # 4 An employee resource group. Large employers are increasingly offering groups to support the networking and mentoring needs for diverse employees. Groups for women and people of color were the first groups in most organizations, but specific GLBT groups are becoming more common today. Employer support of such a group demonstrates that an organization is making needed resources visible and available to the entire staff.

Tip # 5 Full participation in employer events. When an employer plans a holiday party or annual picnic, the invitations should include domestic partners. In fact, any employee-sponsored event should consider the needs and interests of GLBT employees. It's also important that assumptions not be made based on gender (e.g. men want to play sports while women would prefer to attend something cultural).

Tip # 6 Public support. Employers who are truly supportive of GLBT people will demonstrate their commitment to the community through donating to related causes. Additionally, a hands-on community outreach day, in which employees volunteer during work hours, could include meeting a need for a LGBT-based social service organization. Increasingly, companies are starting to target gay and lesbian consumers as well.

Tip # 7 A safe work environment. While all the components listed above are important to creating a safe work environment for lesbian, gay, bi and trans employees, the ultimate need is for a positive workplace in which all people can be authentic. This can happen with or without the presence of all seven components, but is more likely to be truly affirming of queer people given as many of these as possible.

Please don't be discouraged if you work for an organization that does not have score top points for all seven components. I have never worked with an organization that did, yet I know that the most competitive employers are moving in this direction. A work environment that feels safe is the most fundamental of these components -- but without a nondiscrimination policy, you may only have the illusion of safety.

DO THE RESEARCH

The best way to find out about the quality of work life at a particular employer is to use your network of contacts to locate someone who works there. Insider information is often the most up-to-date and accurate data that you can collect.

Paying close attention to how you feel and the way that you are treated in interviews will often give you clues as to how at home you will be working with a particular employer. Although not the first questions that you should ask an interview, it is acceptable to inquire about domestic partner benefits, diversity training, and the overall culture of the employer. Before accepting an offer, it is wise to request a summary of benefits and policies that the employer offers.

By Carrington Ja'Rel Lei

DOES THE BLACK FAMILY BEAR SOME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE "DL" BROTHA AND THE HIV INFECTION RATE IN AFRICAN - AMERICAN WOMEN?

At some point, and who dares suggest when, "sup!", "baby daddy", sagging pants, Escalades on 22's, basketball and hip – hop all became synonymous with the African-American male. As "flattering" as all of that may seem (and that's usually depending upon who you are and where you come from), there is yet another affectation to add to our repertoire. Neatly tucked beneath our mattresses right next to the guns, gold teeth, demo-tapes and drug stashes; black men can now proudly lay claim to the term, "DL".

According to the latest CDC statistics, African-American women account for 72% of all new HIV cases and HIV/AIDS is among the top three causes of death for African-American men ages 25-54. While not totally disagreeing with those numbers - as I have complete confidence in the people who have devoted their time and energy to researching them, I am not as emphatic regarding the implication behind them. How does one alter the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the African - American bisexual male without addressing the justification behind the bisexual male?

As the current trend in pop-culture seems to have become laying blame for these numbers and their contribution to the breakdown of the black family on the shoulders of the "DL brotha", it is just as alarming that no one seems to be willing to call to task the black family for their contributions in creating the "DL brotha"!

"Faggot! Punk! Sissy! Gay! Funny!" Depending upon who you are and the context of your delivery, directing one of these terms at a black man can either get you dismissed as a hater or just as easily, get you a quick ass-kickin'. As a kid growing up in a not so typical black family, I reflect upon my own youth and entree' into adulthood where, rare was the occasion that I can recall a time when either of those words were directed towards someone as a term of endearment. Never have I witnessed someone walk up to a father and his thirteen year old son to offer, "Man, your little faggot has some serious speed; you should try to get him on the track team." Or, "Girl, I remember when I used to change his diapers, now look at him, he turned out to be a handsome lil'punk!"

Words such as these foster and inspire self-loathing, self-hatred, embarrassment and ultimately, the desire for a child to distance himself from all things gay or, "faggot-like". These comments are sometimes used in everyday conversation by a father, an older brother, an uncle, a mother, and in some cases even "granny" had a comment about the "bull-dagga" down the street.

Never met with a smile or a hug, these terms are always spat with disdain, contempt or hatred and typically coincide with feelings of anger. What child struggling to understand his/or her own same-sex attraction dare reveal these confusing feelings to his family or anyone close to him or her? Reveal that you are gay or bisexual to the very same people who have inadvertently addressed you with such repulsion? How dare we suggest that these children are now expected to approach friends and family with the revelation that, "I'm too, a faggot!"?

The African-American family has for far too long been caught up in what everyone else thinks and not spending enough time focusing on self and unconditional love. In a lot of cases, the crack-head we hide our valuables from when he stops by for a visit is more welcomed into our homes than the sister who is simply in love with another sister. I've personally gone into homes where there were pictures on the walls and atop the television of the son who is serving a life-sentence in prison for his "third-strike" or in some cases murder and not one of the son who went to college graduated, bought his own home, his own car and has never been in trouble. We're ashamed of him because he has a voice that is higher than we deem it should be, or dare I say because his eyebrows are arched. Why? Because he chooses to love another man and even with all of his accomplishments, he is still an embarrassment to the family.

We are so quick to point out the passages in the bible that single out homosexuality, but we make room at our tables for the adulterer who brings his woman to the family reunion while his wife is at home.

Is it acceptable for a man to worship Michael Jordan, Lie to his brother, Covet his neighbors wife, commit adultery, and steal from his job, yet give him a pass while breaking five of the Ten Commandments but search the bible for a passage that speaks of homosexuality in an effort to demonize the homosexual? We have a tendency to pick which laws in the bible we choose to be governed by, which are usually the ones that apply to everyone else so we negate the fact that we continually break most of the Ten Commandments - "How 'bout them punks?"

At some point in our society, homosexuality has inched its way up the sin hierarchy to take its place as the ultimate sin and this writer does not believe that it's fair to the millions of same gender-lover people who work, love and lead productive lives to continue this destructive trend.

The black family, the black church and the black community as a whole has jumped on the "gays are evil" bandwagon and damaged our children to the point that when they become men, they forgo who they truly are in an effort to please society, but most importantly, to please those closest to them, family. There are more black men who marry and have children, yet lead the "DL" lifestyle because the black community dictates that they are supposed to and not necessarily because they want to, than most realize. Many gay or bisexual men live in cities far away from the realities of "home" because the reality is that it's more acceptable to be who you are from afar because that way we don't have to see it. Where are the statistics for the number of men and women who are HIV positive because they don't love themselves enough to truly care about protecting themselves from a possibly deadly disease because they've never felt loved?

Society says that as a black man by the time you are twenty-three, you are supposed to have at least three children with two baby mommas and at least one woman on the side and if not, you must be a fag! We need to love ourselves and our children enough to ensure that they know that no matter what they are or who they become, family is a bond that nobody, no disease, and no orientation can break.

The Black man's disappointment with his effeminate son is evident, whereas the white man, like his sons choice or not, is at minimum tolerant of it and in a lot of cases the lover/boyfriend becomes a part of the family.

As African-Americans, we have to become more conscious of the affect our personal beliefs have on our children and allow our children to become who they are on their own. When a white man has an affair his family doesn't know about it until he leaves her a house in his will because he understands the importance of allegiance to family and nothing, not even a long - term affair, will interfere with that. We, as African - Americans seem to be more caught up with what Miss Gladys down the street thinks than what our children might be going through. Although I think we understand that we must love our child because of who he is, the hard part is getting us to understand that there may also come a time when you have to love your child despite who he is.

*Web*Discussion

Go To www.CLIKQUE.com and give us your opinion on the topic you just read. Select entries will be published in a future issue of Clikque Magazine

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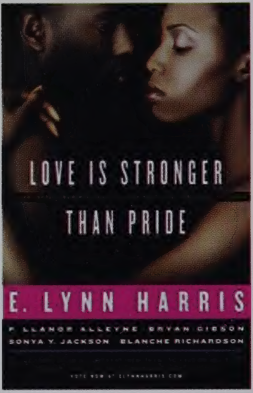
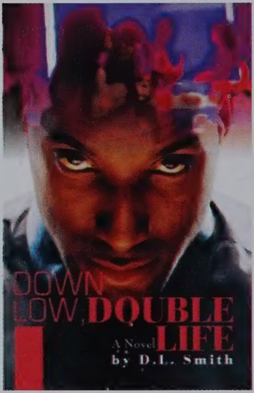

LOVE IS STRONGER THAN PRIDE
E. LYNN HARRIS
F. LLANOR ALLEYNE BRYAN GIBSON
SONYA Y. JACKSON BLANCHE RICHARDSON

Making use of his signature themes of love and friendship, bestselling author E. Lynn Harris has created Love Is Stronger than Pride, a collection of five novellas, with a signature work from Harris along with the work of four up-and-coming writers. The book will benefit several charities, including the E. Lynn Harris Foundation, the Hurston Wright Foundation, and an endowed scholarship at the University of Arkansas. A contest will be held and readers will vote and decide which unknown novella is the best. The winner will be offered a publishing contract from Harlem Moon.

In "R & B," Harris serves up an irresistible tale featuring two of his most beloved characters?the ever-steady Raymond Tyler and unpredictable bad-boy John ?Basil? Henderson. Will pride go before a fall? Or will love finally triumph over self-love?

Dedicated to helping and nurturing the next generation of writers, Harris has provided the perfect launch for new commercial stars, and like Harris's, their dream of being a published author may be fulfilled. The contest details will appear on elynnharris.com.
Let the writing begin.



Down Low, Double Life is a tale of infidelity, reality and relationships. Jamie Kennedy is an ex pro football player who is about to get married to his college sweetheart, Mia. The day of the wedding, he has his doubts. Mia has been in his corner for years. She was there when he had nothing. Still, Jamie is afraid to commit to the one person in the world that has his back. After getting married Jamie experiences the fabled seven-year itch. Mia's career as an editor for a popular magazine begins to demand most of her time. Jamie feels neglected and gets the urge to cheat. His best friend, Michael tells him that infidelity is why he lost his wife, Loretta. After two years of being divorced, Michael is still trying to win back his ex wife's heart. Loretta loves Michael, but she is afraid to give her heart to him again. This is a tale of suspense, love, betrayal and drama. Visit the author's website for more details at www dlsmith.net

---

Michael Maynard
GAMES MEN PLAY

Winston, Andre, Calvin and Marcus are friends who share the same passions and problems in life - sport and women! As players in a first division basketball team, the guys juggle the demands of the sport they love with the pressures of daily life and relationships. Now at a major turning point in their lives, the guys have to seriously consider their futures. Will Winston put his ambitions of playing professional basketball in America on hold for the love of a woman he cheats on? Can Calvin's black power rhetoric save him from growing self-destruction and help him cope with his guilty past? "Sex In The City" guy style, Games Men Play is about men behaving outrageously! Frank and honest, it's a no-holds-barred commentary about being a man in today's ever changing gender landscape.

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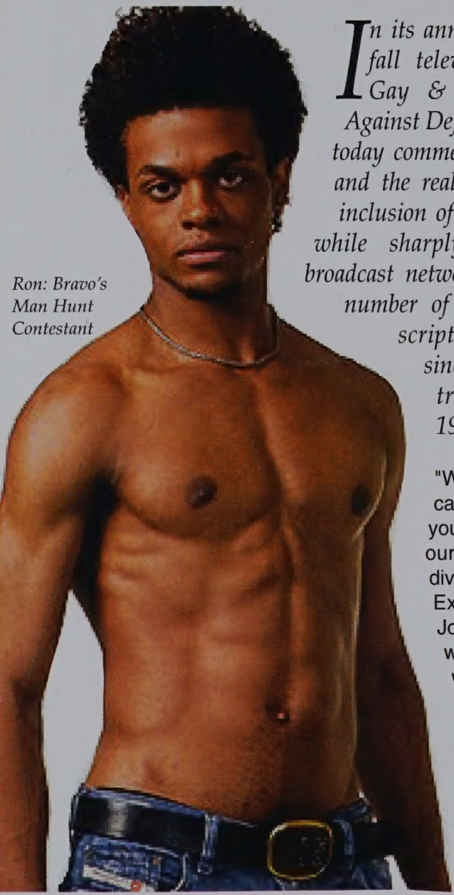
Stephen Macias, Ent. Media Dir. / GLAAD

GAYS ON TV



Ron: Bravo's Man Hunt Contestant

In its annual analysis of the fall television season, the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) today commended cable dramas and the reality genre for their inclusion of gays and lesbians, while sharply criticizing the broadcast networks for the lowest number of gay characters in scripted programming since GLAAD started tracking them in 1996.

"When you turn to cable and reality TV, you see us -- our lives, our relationships, our diversity," said GLAAD Executive Director Joan M. Garry. "But when you turn to network comedies and dramas, you're seeing portraits of an America where gay people and families are nearly invisible. That's not the America we live in."

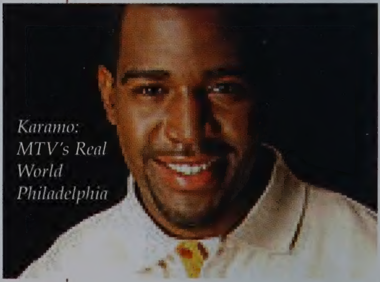
GLAAD's 2004-05 "Where We Are on TV" section, detailing lesbian, gay and bisexual characters and representations on primetime television (there are no transgender characters on TV this season), is available at http://www.glaad.org/eye/ontv/index.php .

In addition to Bravo's Queer Eye for the Straight Guy, this fall has a strong line-up of inclusive reality shows, with two lesbian contestants on CBS' Survivor: Vanuatu, a gay couple on Fox's home renovation competition The Complex: Malibu, and two gay housemates on MTV's The Real World: Philadelphia. Other reality shows that feature openly gay participants include, among others, ABC's The Benefactor, UPN's Amish in the City and Showtime's American Candidate.

However, the surge in inclusive reality TV representations (and the corresponding rise in reality programming) is offset by the continuing under-representation of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) characters on broadcast network scripted series -- with only five gay male characters and one lesbian character in 2004. This year there is only one new gay character in primetime: George (played by Patrick Breen in a supporting role), a nanny who works for the title character in UPN's high-profile Taye Diggs-starrer Kevin Hill.

Mapa: UPN's Half & Half

In sharp contrast, cable dramas (such as HBO's The Wire, FX's Nip/Tuck and The N's Degrassi: The Next Generation), with a total of 15 gay male, nine lesbian and two bisexual female characters, continue to break new



Karamo: MTV's Real World Philadelphia

ground in textured, three-dimensional storytelling – though on programs with smaller audiences than the broadcast networks. GLAAD's analysis also found:

A decline in gay people of color representations on scripted network TV. Only one gay character of color (Adam, an Asian Pacific Islander on UPN's Half & Half) appears on scripted network TV this year. By comparison, there are six gay and lesbian characters of color on scripted cable shows, and reality programs The Benefactor, American Candidate, The Real World, and Queer Eye also feature a total of five gays and lesbians of color.

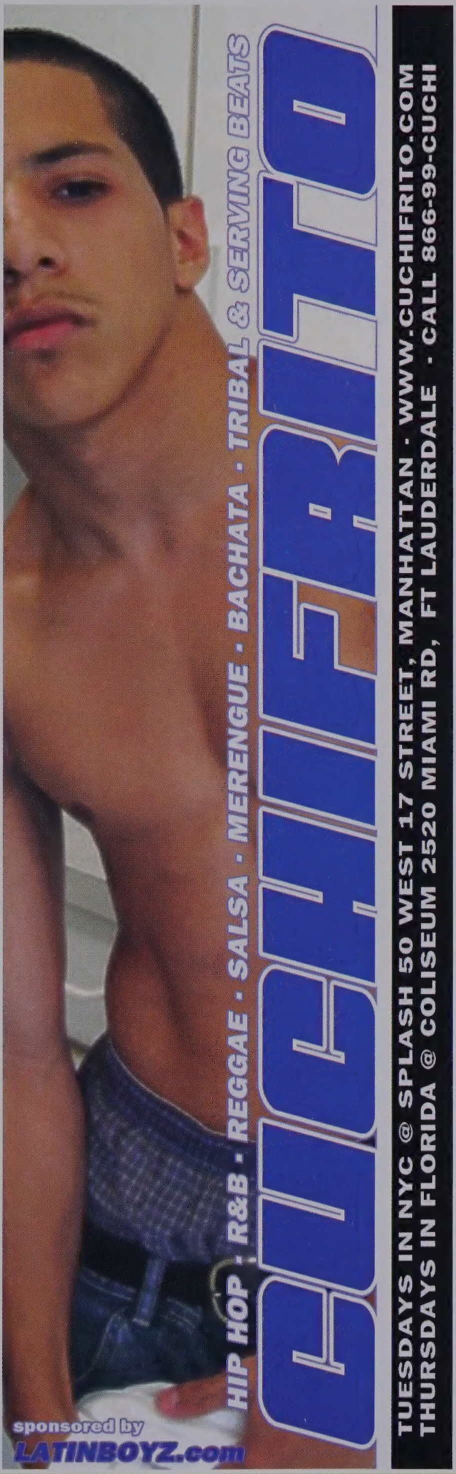
The invisibility of gay and lesbian couples and families on scripted network TV. The cancellation of ABC's groundbreaking It's All Relative leaves scripted network primetime without representations of same-sex couples and families.

The potential for more defamatory exploitation in the reality genre. Despite Fox's decision in May to shelve the homophobic Seriously, Dude, I'm Gay – which featured two men forced to fool others into thinking they were gay though a series of humiliating tasks – GLAAD remains concerned about reality programs that mimic the concepts, but not the spirit, of hit shows like Queer Eye.

"We're all aware that the words 'reality TV' and 'boundaries' don't typically go together," said Stephen Macias, GLAAD's entertainment media director. "But as we saw with Seriously Dude, I'm Gay, some producers are willing to turn us into objects of ridicule and, in doing so, place gay people in harm's way. Seriously, Dude made it clear: there must be boundaries, and GLAAD will continue to keep a watchful eye on the reality genre."

The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) is dedicated to promoting and ensuring fair, accurate and inclusive representation of people and events in the media as a means of eliminating homophobia and discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation.

ADVERTISMENT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By Michael Matson An Advocate.com

Are the Fab 5 in need of a makeover?

What started out in the summer of 2003 as just a few random whispers has converged into this fall's all-out media speculation. And I'm not talking about that tired old "Is Madonna over?" debate, which seemly infiltrates smart cocktail parties with the same frequency that Pamela Anderson changes breast implants.

No, this is about Carson, Kyan, Thom, Ted, and Jai-our beloved Fab 5. The word on the street, and in print, is that the reality television sensation of 2003 has started to sag.

Well, our boys themselves aren't actually sagging (as far as this queer eye can tell, anyway), but the Emmy-winning Queer Eye for the Straight Guy's ratings certainly are. According to that gossipy Nielsen family (you know how they are), the show's recent season debut deflated a full 40% in viewership since this time last year.

"How can it be?" you may ask. "They're so...fab!" I understand the dismay. After all, in recent months we have seen the launch of a Queer Eye music video, soundtrack CD, book, and, yes, even a Queer Eye calendar. Hell, if The Fab 5 just hooked up with the right music producer, they'd stand a pretty good shot at becoming the world's first gay boy band...er, openly gay boy band. So why does it feel like they may soon have some kind of mid-career Joan Crawford moment, asking "Walk me to my car, Bravo"?

The harsh truth is that while our boys remain fab, the show itself has become-dare I say-drab.

What initially made Queer Eye so entertaining was seeing style-challenged straight guys given Funny Face-worthy makeovers, combined with the "will he punch him?" thrill of Carson manhandling the sometimes hunky heteros. But once the show became a media sensation and we all learned to shave with the grain, it appeared as though every male Manhattanite was aching to be asked by Carson for a make-out session. And that was the moment the show took a turn for the worse.

Whether one finds the fashion stylist's sometimes boundary-crossing flirtations with straight guys entertaining or offensive, his initial actions remain revolutionary. Never before on television has a real-life gay man attempted, or perhaps even been allowed, to undo a straight guy's belt-just for kicks. Somehow I picture this role reversal leaving Gloria Steinem chuckling at the small screen.

But in New York-perhaps the planet's most media-savvy city-straight men were quick to catch on to the idea that flirting back with Carson just might get them laid. After several episodes of this newly discovered behavior, I for one found myself channel surfing.

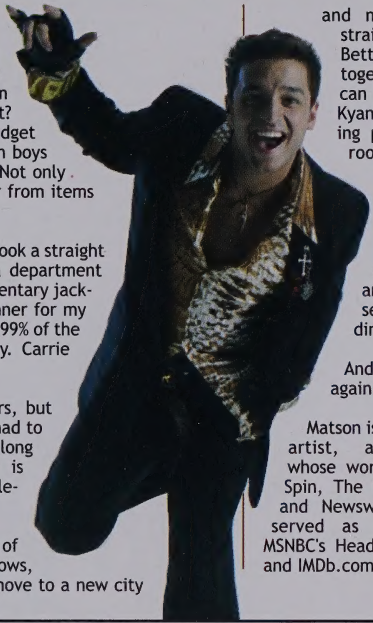
But all hope is not lost. Queer Eye can be saved.

I think it's time to return to fear of the queer. It's one thing to have Carson compliment a New Yorker's booty, but what would happen if he tried the same thing in Michigan? Or Arkansas? Now, I am not looking for an all-out brawl, but it is fun and educational to watch straight guys try to process their own homophobia. Carson may even become the nation's first aversion therapist to fix antigayness.

Moving the Queer Eye cast to the Midwest, or at least out of the five boroughs, would solve another problem. Initially, the boys taught male breeders important basics, such as getting pedicures and removing unibrows, much to the relief of female breeders nationwide. But how many men in Spokane have a gay stylist to take them to Barneys and buy them a tailored Prada suit? How 'bout throwing a little Trading Spaces budget management into the mix to show Midwestern boys how to find a good outfit at Target or Sears? Not only that, teach how to prepare a romantic dinner from items found at Wal-Mart.

In one recent episode, food and wine guy Ted took a straight guy to a New York establishment that had a department store-size meat freezer and, get this, complimentary jackets. Yeah, like that's gonna help me make dinner for my next date. Queer Eye is a reality show, and for 99% of the country, shopping in Manhattan is not reality. Carrie Bradshaw's shoe collection is fiction, boys.

There is no question that the Fab 5 are stars, but they need a new script. Even Lucy and Ethel had to move to the country eventually. I fear that as long as the guys stay in Manhattan, the show is doomed to remain lackluster, and, well, irrelevant to the masses.



Perhaps Queer Eye should take a tip from one of TV's longest-running gay-inclusive reality shows, The Real World. Each season the boys could move to a new city and make it over one straight guy at a time. Better yet: Put them together in a loft so we can watch Carson and Kyan fight over grooming products and bathroom mirror space, while Thom comforts a broken-hearted Jai on a wicker couch from Pier 1. Then, as the sun sets on another day, Ted can serve up a fabulous dinner for everyone.

And all will be queer again in the kingdom.

Matson is a published writer, artist, and photographer whose work has appeared in Spin, The Village Voice, Out, and Newsweek. He has also served as a consultant for MSNBC's Headliners and Legends and IMDb.com.

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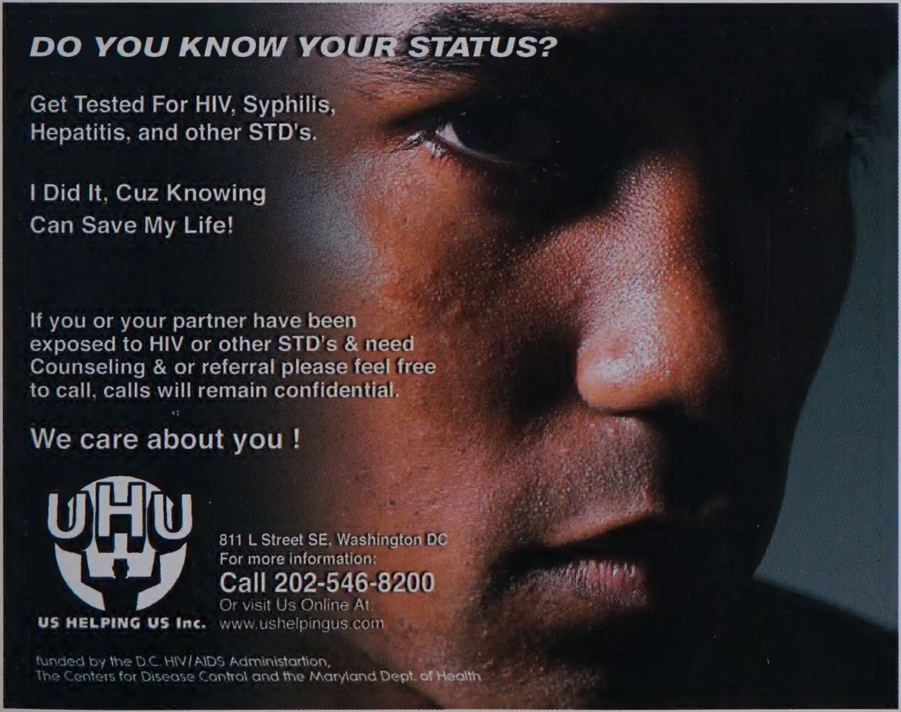

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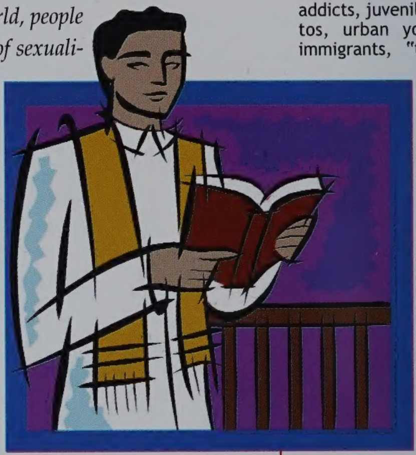
By: Darryl! L.C. Moch

CHURCH OF CONTROVERSY:

EXAMINING FAITH, IN REAL LIFE



All across this nation, and in fact the world, people are beginning to really deal with issues of sexuality and spirituality. Particularly, we look to traditional places of worship and inclusion to find our value and self-worth. We look to our places of spiritual enlightenment for guidance, instruction, and to find a sense of belonging. Unfortunately for many people, historically, full inclusion and acceptance has been denied. People who look different, smell different, act different, or live differently are often excluded and or ostracized from these traditional places of worship. Ironically, because of the psychic-spiritual pain inflected be these rejections people are often unable or unwilling to align themselves with more inclusive and affirming types of congregations. So even when offered an alternative – people will reject the option because somehow to accept a new concept means to accept themselves and this means to reject all that they have known or come to believe to be true.

These are the very notions that we are challenging here today. We are asking you to consider a new truth. One that has been denied you for a very long time; they are truths that have been available and known by clergy for centuries. The basic fact is that there is no condemnation to same gender loving persons or their families, officially found in any body of spiritual truths. What you will find are religious principles, tailored and contrived to serve the purposes of the ruling classes throughout history. Regardless of these misrepresentations of the truth we will look at how these controversies really affect our community and the true impact of lives of real people. It is this writers attempt to ask the rhetorical questions: what does it matter to you, what someone else does or what their relationships look like; and likewise, what if God said "so what- this is my child in whom I am well pleased"- what will it change in your life?

In the past many of these questions and concerns only focused on "theoretical" groups of people. It was easy for our clergy to reference an entire group of people without acknowledging the particular person or people referenced. Women, criminals, rapists, gay people, children, the poor, homeless, drug addicts, juvenile delinquents, mulattos, urban youth, slaves, illegal immigrants, "those other people" and so on. This allowed them to keep the issues outside of themselves or their congregation. This of course is perpetuated by the silence of people within the inner circle of the clergy or within the congregation who do not challenge or confront negativity when it is espoused. If you remain silent who will speak for the "least of these" who may not be able to speak for them selves.

Let's be clear. It really does not matter what one believes, what does really matter is how people are treated and how people can live with integrity and positive self-esteem. It can never be said that any spiritual leader's wish was that some people be treated with dignity and respect and that others were not worthy of the same. In all of my studies, I have yet to find in any path or journey where it has been determined that some people are worthy of goodness and others are not. So what gives so called "religious leaders" the right to do so now? And when did political leaders also become religious leaders and spokespersons for the morality of society?

In our efforts to make a better society our concern must be for the person (young or old) who cannot reconcile his/her sexuality with his/her spirituality and decides that because of the incongruence and inconsistency they would be better off dead. Is this right? What is more right: to live in shame and fear, to die, or to live a productive happy life? Why should anyone have to choose between living and dying or living happily and living a life of disgust and self-loathing? What are we doing that continues to allow people to jump off bridges, overdose, hang themselves, abuse themselves or allow them selves to be abused either with sex, drugs, or uncontrolled living? Why would we encourage loveless relationships and "marriages" just to keep appearances? Is this the real root of the DL controversy? And are we in some ways perpetuating the ills that come with teen aged promiscuity, unwanted pregnancies, domestic violence, and illicit drug use as escapes from realities that are too painful to endure because our society and families have become primary sources of inflicted pain? Is it ok with you that it might be someone you know or love who steps into oncoming traffic, swallows a handful of pills, or has unprotected sex repeatedly with people in the darkest recesses in some lonesome city venue?

In city after city after city resources and places of refuge are being created and/or sustained to help people in these situations; but why is the religious community silent on these matters? Why is it the only thing that the religious community can respond to is a "so-called" attack on marriage? Suggesting that this "attack on marriage" is the root of the evil of today. I submit that it is this kind of thinking that caused the total and complete destruction of societies and nations in the past. It is this kind of thinking that spawned leaders who attempted to annihilate entire communities and groups of people. And it will be this kind of thinking that will cause us to be once again to feel an experience of a spiritual separation from God, in the sense that we are far from the intentions of God in loving each other has we have been loved.

We are responsible for our actions and the decisions we make that impact other people. Today is the day to take a stand, make a choice to live life to the fullest. Live with integrity and honesty. No longer can we sit back and allow others to dictate for us, who we can love, how we should love, or when our loving is outside of the boundaries of society. We cannot be confused into submission by the politicizing of our lives and relationships. We cannot be confused by the dehumanized and demoralized stories about us and of our loving told by religious zealots and modern day Pharisees; fanatics that are loud mouthed closed minded people. It is not always true that the ones who speak the loudest are the ones who are telling the truth. Sometimes we who are silent or quiet are right; in this instance, like other before it, silence = death.

Examine your faith. In the things you really do have a choice about, make choices that are good for you. In whatever you do choose to live a free and full life. Today is the day to take a stand, challenge the controversy in your church (or other religious institution). Let your truth be told. Let your voice be heard, everywhere. On the ballot, in the way you live your life, to the choices you make about your life. Let your voice be heard.

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by Darryl LC Moch

BECOMING YOUR ULTIMATE SELF:

LOVING OUTSIDE OF YOURSELF, PART I

Harambee (Let us come together!): *First let me say a special thank you to all of you who have expressed kind concern for my family and me over the past few months during the transitions of my aunt, Jackie, and my great grandmother, Ms. Jesse. Thanks to Dwight and the entire Clikque family offering support during my absence and to the artists, activists, and political figures who have continued to inspire me to write and participate in our common dialogue. Finally, I want to thank my mentors, family, and friends who have helped me during this season in my life; particularly James, who has helped me relearn how to Love Outside of Myself.*

Now on this journey we have been taking this year we have been talking about how to become our ultimate selves. We have explored various aspects of self-awareness and healing. There is still more to come but at this point it is important not to forget that to become your ultimate self you must also express these things outside of yourself. This is part one, to Loving outside of Yourself by changing your perspective and preparing to fully love again. The love you are developing for yourself must have an opportunity to grow and expand beyond the borders of your mind and body.

I am not talking about sex, because, unfortunately, too often we have learned to have sex without love. While sex is a welcome expression, it is not always a manifestation of love. But true love- love that reaches past problems and faults; looks beyond misunderstandings and hurts to embrace a pure essence of peace, joy, and passion. It is more than desire it is a deep, deep yearning for greatness, not only for yourself but for the other person equally. It is this kind of love that will magnify all of the good you are and wish to be as it is reflected in the face and lives of those around you- through your expression of yourself in them.

In short, it is total abandon of trying to get someone else to satisfy your psychological or emotional needs but instead to share unconditional positive regard for others and for yourself. It is a giving of yourself with no strings attached. Ironically, you cannot be hurt by this kind of loving outside of yourself because your loving depends only on you and your own personal satisfaction of having shared yourself with others.

Loving outside of yourself allows you to fully love yourself and takes you on the fast track to becoming your ultimate self. Loving outside of yourself allows you to see your own growth, to appreciate your own inherent goodness. Loving outside of yourself offers you the opportunity to receive love from someone else and nurture not only your present experience of life but also to nourish and fill your soul. Loving outside of yourself is not only a tool of self awareness and healing but it is a weapon against the darkness and pain that can be readily found in our daily lives. Loving outside of yourself allows you to have and share joy everywhere you are. Loving outside of yourself allows you to be fully present and alive all day, everyday. Loving outside of yourself reinforces the truth of Love and liberty and is a powerful expression of who you really and truly are. So go on Love yourself ... and love outside yourself, again. Share your love with someone else. Loving outside of yourself is your natural state of being.

Meditate and reflect on these thoughts:

I am love. I am filled with love. As I share my love, by loving outside of myself I am filled with all love. Through this love I experience perfect peace, joy, harmony, and liberty. It is through this love I find the freedom to exist, just as I am, fully present, active, and alive in life. I am love. I am willing and able to love outside of myself. I expect nothing in return but know that I will receive the same love that I feel inside and share outside of myself. I know love and I share love unconditionally with others. I am love and I am loving outside of myself. I am free. I am free. I am free. And so it is and it cannot be undone.

Written By Dwight Powell

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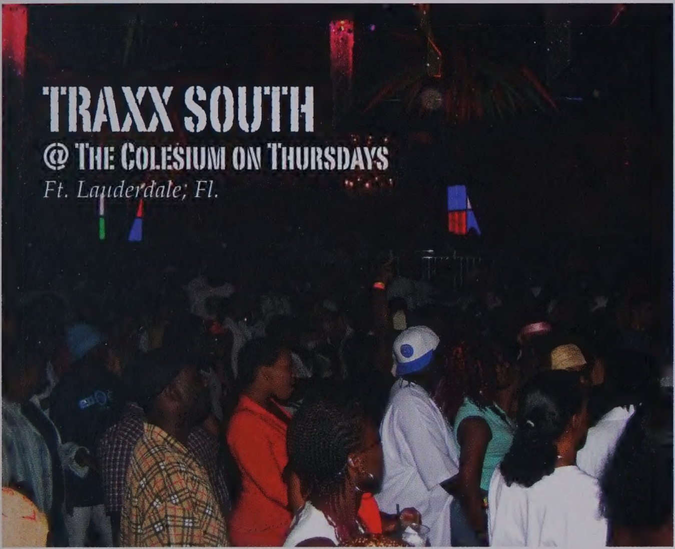
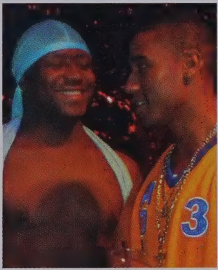




Written By JoAnn Weinrib

WAITING TO EXHALE

Yoga is everywhere. It's so popular that clothing manufacturers create yoga collections, cosmetic companies launch their products with yoga events and now we can even raise our tual consciousness by "chakra" bracelets. I can my first yoga teacher, Indian guru, spinning in his crypt chanting, "Yeah, we finally made it." He worked very hard to teach the philosophy of yoga as a pathway to spiritual, physical and emotional enlightenment to a breed of Westerners searching for the universal "om." They flocked to India in the late 60's on the heel of Baba Ram Das and Georg Harrison.

Our daily practices at th ashram started at six a.m vigorous physical Hatha Yo where we learned the postu The day ended at 10 p.m. after satsang, a discussion of the philosophy of yogic life, its morals and ethics. During the day we learned to meditate to quiet our minds and studied pranayama, which are breathing exercises that enhance concentration. We chanted sacred mantras to open and channel the power of the six psychic energy centers of the body (chakras) and lived a life of harmony and peace.

After six months at the ashram exploring every path and discipline of yoga, sheltered by the guidance of our teacher, we were ready for our return to the United States. Concerned about the transition from the world of harmony and bliss to a more chaotic American way of life, we sat among other ashram students and discussed how we would integrate our knowledge into everyday life.

While our teacher listened to our proposals for teaching classes and writing books to educate others about the yogic way of life, he became distracted by the woman sitting . She slowly unwrapped rcel in her lap to reveal nade doll. Along the ne of its torso she had roidered the symbol of ch chakra. It was the ototype for a line of Kundalini Dolls" she hoped to sell to Bergdorf's. The guru understood what we all now know to be true: commercializing a philosophy is one way to reach a larger audience. The teacher looked very hard at us and proclaimed, "She's got it." That was rs ago.

ts of practicing Hatha means union. As the pace of our lives become faster, more stressful and seems out of our control, we have a strong need to create a sense of balance and harmony. Yoga is a transformational, unique mind/body experience that uses physical exercise to find inner awareness. By coordinating the breath with the postures (asanas), you gain flexibility, strength and the abilities to concentrate and regulate your nervous system.

YOGA

Techniques

TECHNIQUES OF HATHA YOGA The variety and availability of different methods of yoga are overwhelming. Here's a short guide to help you find a class that's right for you.

ASHTANGA uses synchronized breathing with a progressive series of postures to produce an intense internal heat and a profuse, purifying sweat.

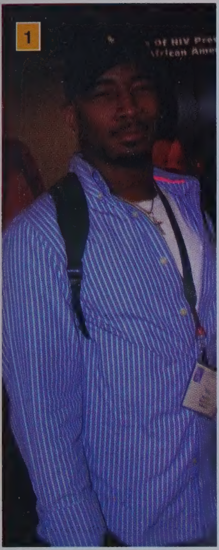
BIKRAM raises the temperature of the room, allowing the muscles to relax and deeply stretch into 26 sequentially performed postures.

IYENGAR is a dynamic style that stresses the accurate and detailed holding of the postures, using props for correct alignment.

KRIPALU uses postures in tune with the Western body that coordinate deep breathing and movement. It's benefit comes from prolonged holding of the postures.

VINYASANA is a flowing series of postures performed with continous movement.

United States Conference On AIDS - Philadelphia, PA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1 Troy Kelly from Miracle of Love in Orlando, Fl **2** Clikque supporters from Statscript Pharmacy **3** Got Nathan? - Community Marketing Concept **4** Malik from AID Atlanta **5** Recent cover model Dr. George Smith with friend and USCA participant **6** Rep from POZ Magazine **7** HRSA Rep **8** Life Beat Rep **9** Representative from A&U Magazine **10** Robert Swayzer (R) and co-worker from Brotherhood Inc in New Orleans **11** Positively Aware representative Keith Green **12** One of many Exhibitors at the USCA in Philadelphia

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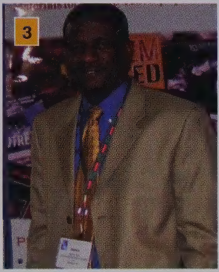
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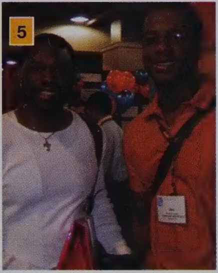
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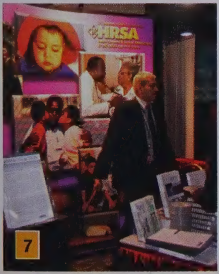
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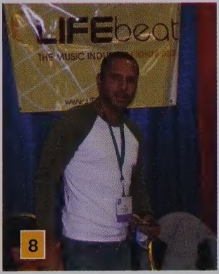
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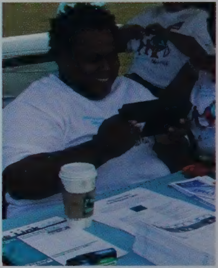
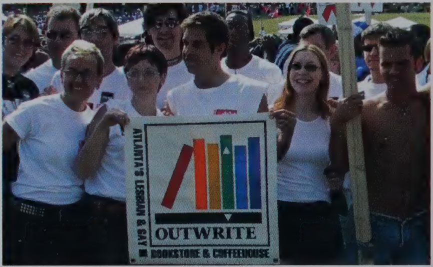
The Power of Freedom

AIDS WALK - Atlanta, GA

By the thousands, women, children and young black adults came out in support of AIDS Walk Atlanta. Over the past five years the make-up of this huge crowd has changed drastically. What was once a mostly white, male event, AIDS Walk Atlanta is now represented by participants that's most affected by HIV/AIDS in Atlanta and most of the country - black women and young Black men. It's truly refreshing to see so many African-Americans participate in an event that's been supporting our communities for years. Funds raised during AIDS Walk Atlanta benefits 15 local agencys in the area; all of which provide programs and services to the Black communities.

AID Atlanta cut walk expenses by $200,000 and officials predicted the event's 15 other beneficiaries will receive a portion of the general proceeds in addition to the money raised by their individual team walkers,





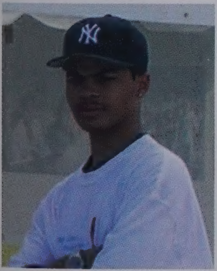
TEAM INFORMA

unlike like last year. Exact financial results won't be available for a few weeks, according to Kim Anderson, AID Atlanta's executive director.

Keith Fenton, who managed the AIDS Walk, said net proceeds should reach about $740,000 to be distributed among AID Atlanta and the 15 other agencies. The walk had a budget of $440,000. Some 35 to 40 percent of walk proceeds go the beneficiaries, while 60 to 65 percent of proceeds go to AID Atlanta.

"The net proceeds are greater, therefore they [the agencies] will receive more funding," Fenton said.

AID Atlanta expects an additional $150,000 to come in over the next three weeks, Fenton said.



ASK Bianca

Beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder, but in my case, it lies all over my face. Oops, my bad. Hello darlings, it's me again, your girl Bianca Buchannan. Sitting untold and perched near this computer as my assistant Francine is typing my dictation. I usually type the column myself, but since I learned that my do girl has a degree in American Literature and can type I may never touch another work-related keyboard.

The summer is almost over and it has been a good one for me. Most of you are headed towards Atlanta to salvage your youth, promote your promiscuity or serve a runway at the functions. I for one will be perched at a spa in the south of France getting me a milk bath surrounded by hung French men. Speaking of hung men I got a phone call from Killer last week. Out of the blue he decides to have a friend of his three-way me from lockdown where he is locked up for trying to get me that last diamond that would have completed my set. Too bad he got caught or he would still be enjoying this hot coochie. He sounded like he may have turned into a batcatcher in there and that will not work with me when he is released.

I had to fess up and tell him that someone had been keeping his bed warm. Truth be told there is no hope for killer and me. The new man in my life has an equally big piece and foreskin. Killer is cut and these days I like the foreskin, so when I go to the beach or if it is raining I can wear it over my head like a bonnet.

Let me get on to this month's letters as Francine and I have hair appointments in 30 minutes.

Dear Bianca,

My friends can't take me. They say that I am a Dinge queen because I only date black men and I am a JAP. My parents have no problem with me dating outside my race but my friends want to know what can a black man offer a Jewish princess such as myself. What should I do?
Michael Feinstein

Dear Michael,
You know exactly what to say to those girls. First off, they are racist and you should slap them for even using the word dinge to refer to good, black dick. As for what a black man can offer you, take notes. You already know this, but let me put it on paper so you can repeat it to your girlfriends. A black man can offer you a nicely sculptured body and a huge dick that will stay rock hard for you to gag on nightly. Also, as the song says, " My boyfriends back and he's gonna save my reputation." remember when you date a black man your song becomes, " My boyfriends black and he's gonna kick your ass, hey nah hey nah my boyfriends black." In any event sweetie, your friends are jealous that they don't have the gall to ride a giant black cock on a regular basis. While your friends turn green I will remain beautiful.
Love B.

Dear Bianca,

I am a DL brotha who reads this awesome magazine in my bathroom on a regular. My girl's brother has been staying with us for a couple months and he gets it every month. I have fallen in love with your cattiness and though I have never seen you, I can imagine how beautiful you must be. From your description. I don't want my girl or her bro to find out that I read this gay book but I had to write to let you know that I am falling in love with you. I would love to work your titties over with my tongue and give you

MAIL

Bianca is interested in helping you solve some of the greater mysteries of life. Write her at Clikque Magazine,
1001 North Federal HWY, Suite 365, Hallandale, FL 33009
Or email her C/O Clikque1@aol.com

some of this good stiff dick. Peaces out my sweet biscuit.
Your boy Mo

Dearest Mo,
Thanks for your letter and your being charmed by my beauty. You are a sick fuck. I will not ever get involved with another DL man. The only DL man I want is the one who stays down low below my waistline at all times. I like my men manly, thuggish, prison types but they must know fully well that they like girls like me. Self made women not born fish. You are indispicable and I hope your girl finds out that you are a bottom that is getting fucked by her brother. I did my research; you and your girl's brother are both slime. Don't write to me again unless it is to tell me of my infinite beauty.
The ever beautiful Bianca

Dear Bianca,

I have been incarcerated for 10 years and I just started receiving Clikque magazine. A friend said he knew you and sent me your picture. You are gorgeous. I want to get with you.
Please write me back
Big L.

Dear Big L.
Thank you.
The ever devastating Bianca

Dear Bianca,

I ran in a pageant recently and did not make the top twelve. My friends said I was robbed. Do you think I should write a letter to the owners to let them know how upset I am? This was the second time my friends say I got duked.
Flawless in Atlanta

Dear Flawless,
You have no friends. Twice you did not make it out of the prelims? Girl, you need a friend who will tell you how much of a mess you are, rather than lying to you about your being duked.

Your so-called friends are the ones working you girl. Trust me on this one, you were never prepared enough to make the twelve. Besides, I thought you girls ran to win not just make the twelve.

My advice is not to write a damn thing to the pageant owners. Prepare properly for next year's pageant and get one good friend to tell you the truth.
Love Bianca.

That's it for this month.
Until next month, on these same pages, of this pristine magazine. I remain forever flawless.
Bianca.

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EAR TO THE STREET

//Atlanta, Ga

Clikque is extremely sad to report he world-renowned **TRAXX** nightclub on 306 Luckie Street is no more. Management is reshuffling and will attempt to offer its Legendary Saturday night at **The Armory** in Midtown and Monday and Tuesday events at the **Masquerade.** We will let you know if any of this works.

Club 708 is truly off the chain. A new generation with a sprinkle of the older kids makes this Atlanta's number one party stop. Hype atmosphere, crunk music and swell drinks just right for you budget minded partygoers
After another huge Labor Day weekend, the guys at **Extreme Entertainment** are still holding their own at the **Lion's Den @ Tower II.** Work on the street is that the Palace may be opening its doors again sometime early next year. We'll keep you posted.

//Dallas, Tx

The Metro is back. Now dubbed **Elm & Pearl**, the nightclub seeks to fill the void a much needed nightlife venue for black gay and lesbians in the Dallas area. As you know, local groups have boycotted many white own places of entertainment for attempting to bankrupt local black own clubs such as the Metro and the now defunct Club NV. Support businesses that support you.

//Houston, Tx

Legendary promoters of Houston's famous **Incognito-The Club** have found another place to call home. **Sean Dawson** and his clan has brought the party back to the old **Rascals.** Wow, how times have changed. Thursdays at the **Martini Bar** (formally Rascals) is back and alive. Good luck guys. **Big Yo**, you make us here at Clikque sooooooo proud. Just a few years ago you were doing your thing on the lip-sync circuit; now you run the hippest party stop in the city. Nuff respect. **Big Yos** is the place to be in Houston on the weekends.

//Miami / Ft.Lauderdale, Florida

After almost a five year run, Club 21 is no more. But don't worry, Thursdays at the **Coliseum** will continue under the direction of new promoters that promises to bring-back the legendary Thursday night crowd. The name changes from **Club 21** to

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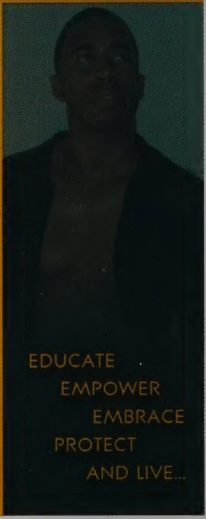

NightLife

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2715 Bufort Hwy ...... ☎404-634-3737

CLUB 708
708 Spring Street........ ☎404-874-8125
Website: www.legendary708.com

CLUB COLORS
1510 Piedmont Ave ...... ☎404-724-0611

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TRAXX SOUTH @ COLESIUM
2520 S. Miami Rd, ... ☎954-753-2525

TWIST
1057 Washington, Ave .. ☎305-538-9478

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56 L St., S.E. .... ☎202-488-1200.

TRAXX South. Thursday night at the Coliseum will also host **Cuchifrito.** Yup the hip Latin group has left Club Exit in Hollywood. TRAXX South is in the main room and Cuchifrito is in the hype hip-hop room. Beginning Saturday November 13th at the Colesium - The TRAXX South promoters will host a weekly party in the Hip-Hop room.

Jays Bar on Wednesday is off the chain. Kinda takes me back to the day of The Otherside Nightclub in Atlanta. Other regular spots that continues to please is **Twist** on South Beach (Thursday & Sunday) and **Sugars** on Friday. New on the raider: Sundays at **Oxygen Lounge** in Coconut Grove - Hot sexy Latin crowd.

Our ears are always on the street and we welcome your club news and announcements. Go to www.clikque.com or call us at 954-455-8781 if you have info to share with us. You can also fax us at 954-455-8780 or email mail@clikque.com

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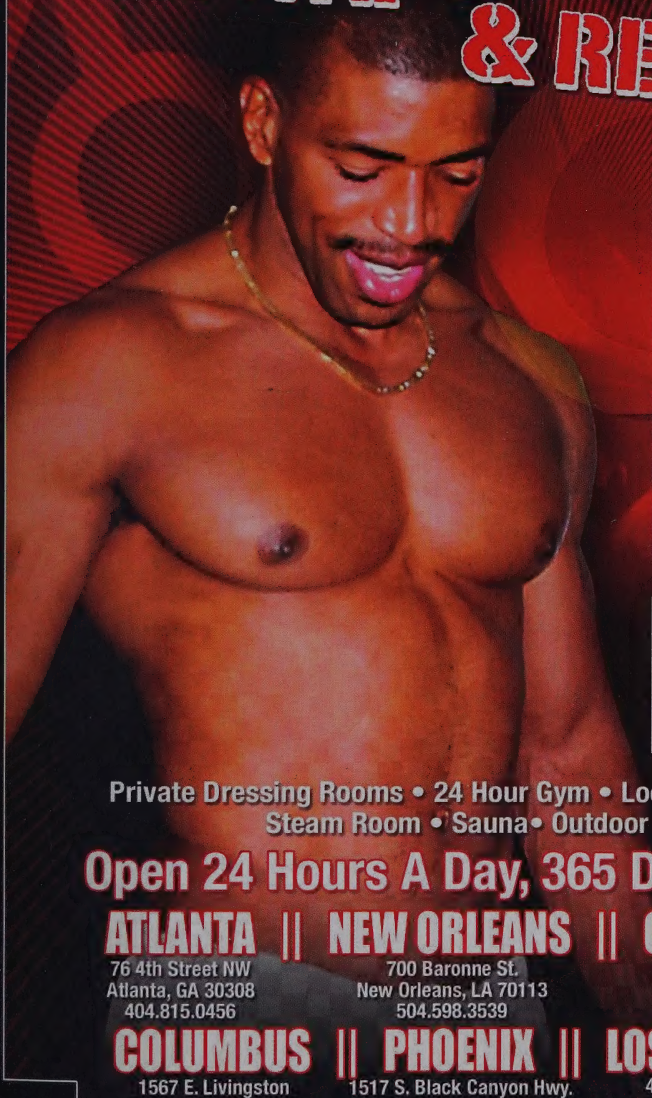

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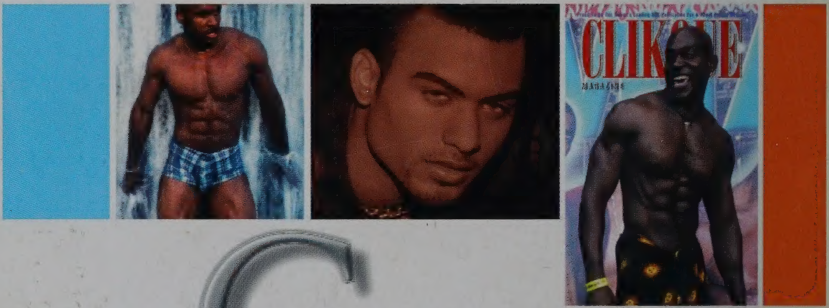
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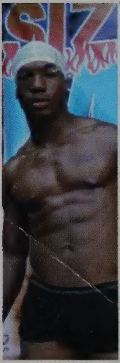

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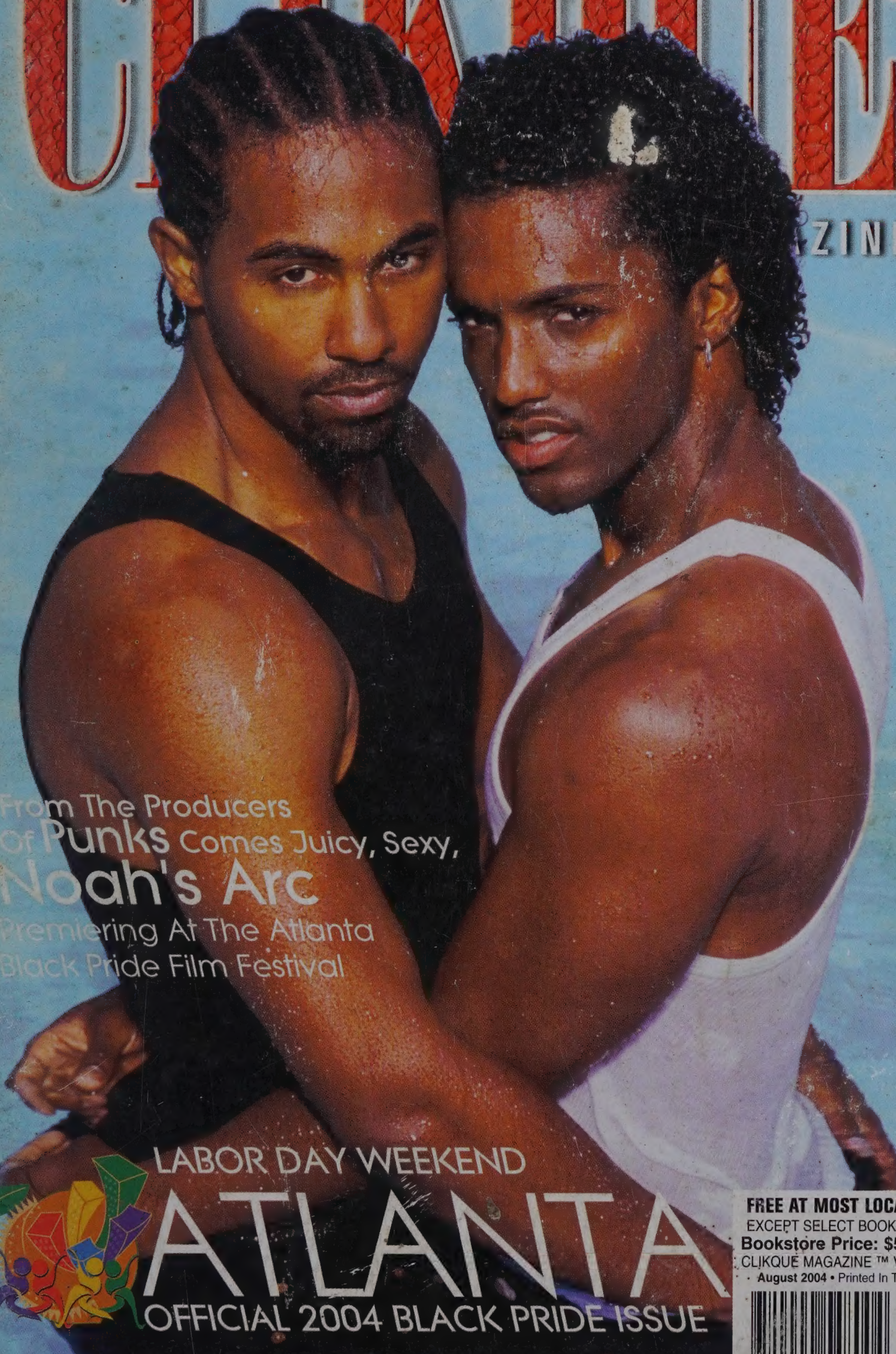

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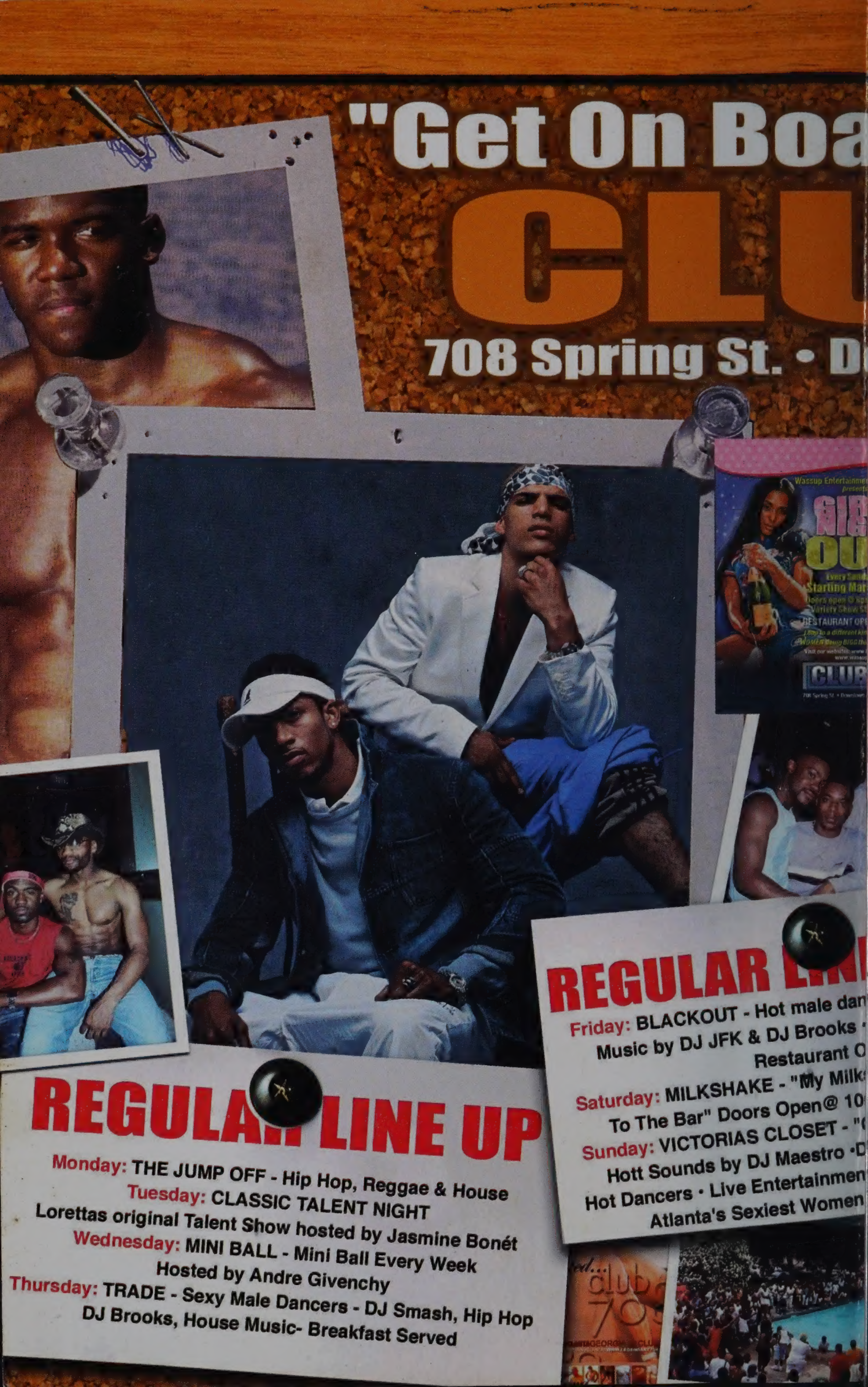
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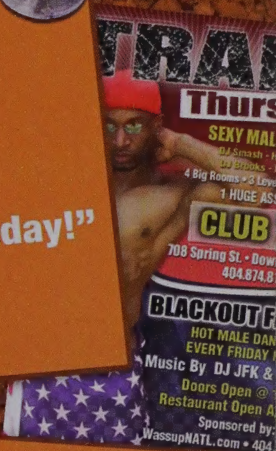

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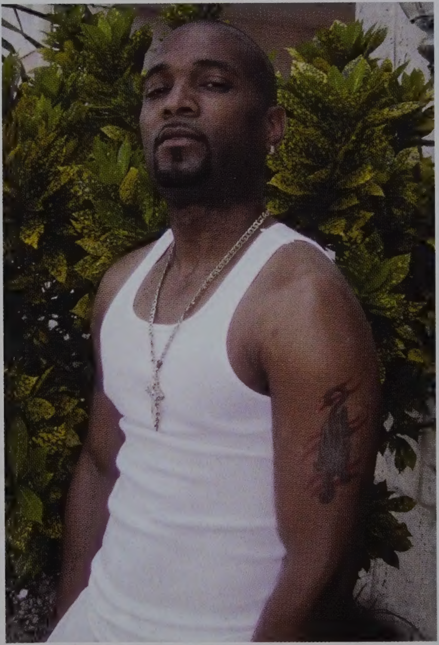
EDITORIAL
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF DWIGHT POWELL

Pride In The City

What is it to have and or show pride? Is it a sense of one's dignity or values or self-respect. Is it the pleasure or satisfaction taken in an achievement, possession, or association.

Or is to have pride an arrogant, unreasonable conceit of one's own superiority in talent, beauty, wealth, rank, etc., which manifests itself in lofty airs, distance, reserve, and often in contempt of others.

Over the next few months, when attending either POCC's Pride In The City,New York, ITLA's Atlanta Black Pride, or Dallas Black Pride, ask yourself, why am I attending these pride events? What is it to have black gay pride? What does this mean? Am I expressing my pride when I finally grab a rainbow colored flag, march down main street, and show the world that I am not afraid that they can see me... letting them know that I am gay?

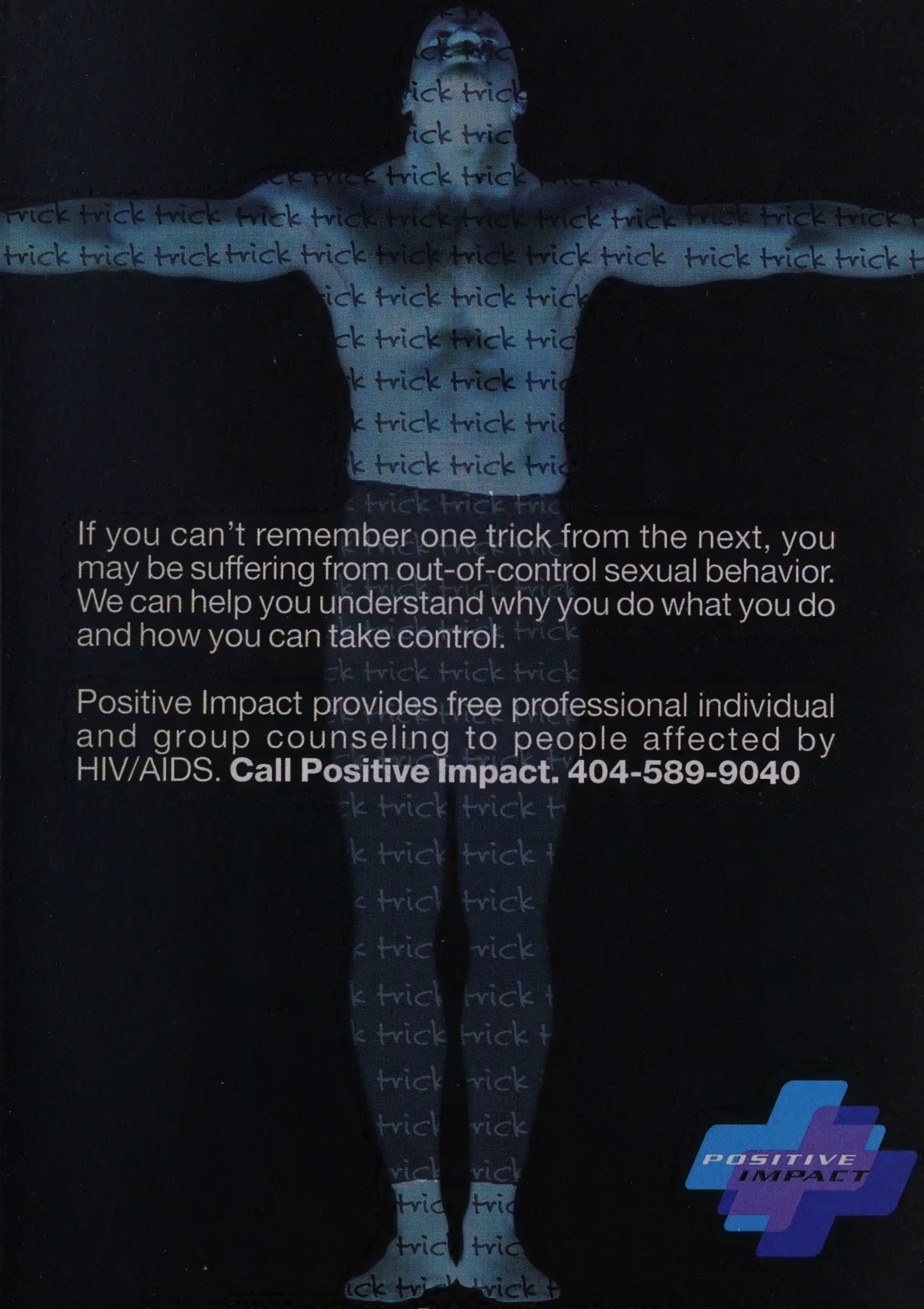


Pride to me, is a comforting reality that it's ok, ok to be who we are, BLACK GAY MALES. Events such as DC Black Pride afforded me that comfort zone. The workshops and film festivals. The literature and poetry readings. The relaxing and entertaining picnics, that provided opportunities for me to mingle and meet hundreds of people with similar concerns and desires as myself. People from various professions such as doctors, lawyers, gender illusionists, politicians, teachers, waiters, maids.... EVERYONE; seeking a place that allows them to be free, to be themselves. For those of us that find it difficult to express this kind of pride in our everyday surroundings, pride events such as those in New York, Atlanta and DC, can be a welcoming release of built up emotions and frustration.

While the night-time parties and festivities are indeed, must experience events, let this year be the year that you'll become a participant, in the not-as-glamorous daytime activities. It is there that you will probably discover that pride is more than parties and boys, but rather an "EVENT" showcasing us, our lives, and our experiences.

Have lots of fun, learn more about yourself and be safe.

Dwight Powell



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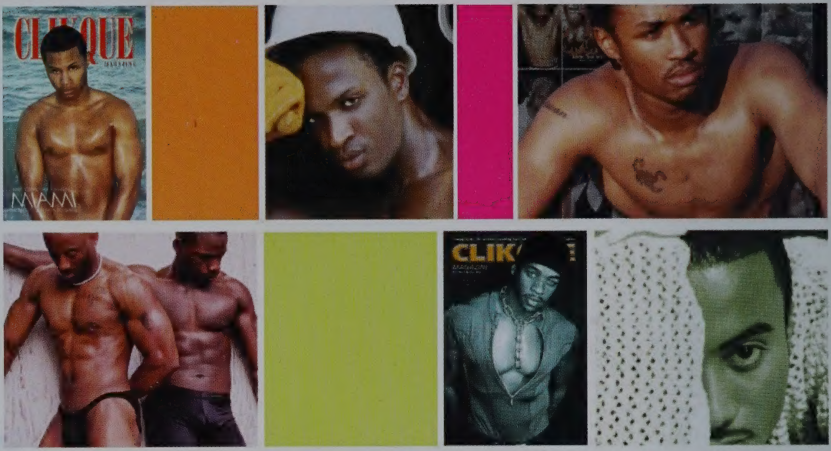
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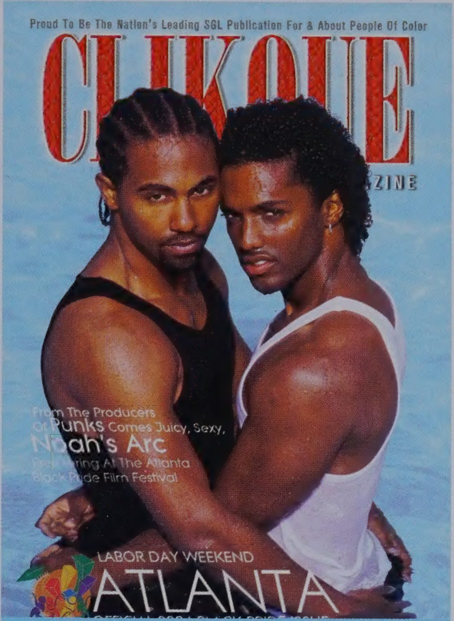
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clikque events

Here at Clikque, we do more than just publish, this top notch magazine. We also sponsor some kick-ass events. Look for these events in your area.

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NEW YORK CITY/BROOKLYN

FRIDAY AUG 5- MONDAY 9TH, POCC Pride In The City.

Look for our booth at NYC Black Pride sponsored by People of Color On Crisis. **$Free.** visit www.pocc.org for more details

MIAMI, FLORIDA

SATURDAY AUGUST 14TH, MAGAZINE RELEASE PARTY @ CLUB BOI

Clikque Magazine release party. Call 954-455-8781 and find out how you can get on the VIP list

HOUSTON, TEXAS

FRIDAY AUG 20TH, CALIENTE

Clikque Magazine returns homes for a kick-ass Hip-Hop party at 1415 Bar & Grill (Formally Sonomas). Dwight Powell from Sizzle 2004 and DJ Gavin T from Club Boi will be bringing the Heat from Miami. November cover model will be chosen from the crowd. Lots of prizes and surprises. Let's see if Beyonce shows up. **$12.00** **See Ad On Page 11**

SEPTEMBER '04

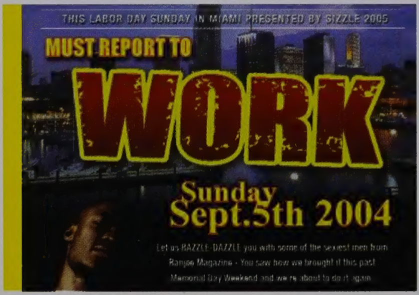
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 3RD, ATL BLACK PRIDE

Clikque Magazine sponsors VIP Reception For ITLA VIPs, Sponsors and invited guests. **$FREE** **See Ad On Page 32**

MIAMI, FLORIDA

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 5TH, WORK @ SOHO LOUNGE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OCTOBER '04

DALLAS, TEXAS

FRIDAY OCTOBER 1ST - SUNDAY OCTOBER 3RD DALLAS BLACK PRIDE

Clikque Magazine sponsors Pool Party & various events **$CALL** **See Ad On Page 78**

NOVEMBER '04

MIAMI, FLORIDA

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 26TH, THE WHITE PARTY

For the first time The White Party will be giving a HIP-HOP party during it's week of events and has invited Clikque Magazine and Sizzle 2005 to Host this huge event. This event benefits Care Resource. **$15.00** in advance $20 at the door **See Ad On Page 15 or visit www.sizzle2005.com**

The White Party 2004 20 years

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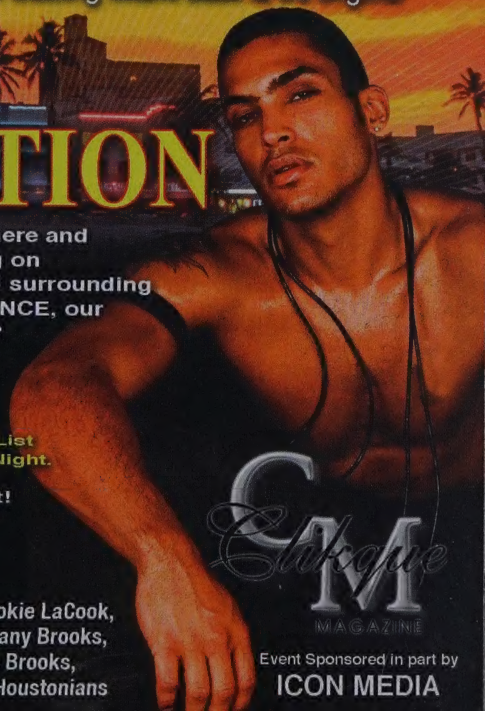

Get Ready For The RESURRECTION

It's been almost 3 years since we've been here and now we're about to let all hell loose. Calling on Houston, Dallas, Austin, Port Arthur and all surrounding areas, come out and select from the AUDIENCE, our November 2004 Cover Boy.. Will it be YOU?

Music by Miami's Best, DJ GAVIN T. Club Boi Resident DJ. He'll Show You How We Did It At Sizzle 2004.

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Clikque MAGAZINE

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Written By Lewis Nicholson

JUDGE NOT

As I sit here pondering what to write about I ask myself, what people will think of me and the article I am writing. My first thought was who will think I don't practice what I preach or who will be offended by my writing, and lastly, how will what I am writing affect my readership? Then it occurred to me, that all my thoughts are on how will I be judged. As a result, I am writing on the issue of judging. How judgmental am I? Is life about being judged and how important it is to live up to the judge's expectations?

How judgmental am I? At first thought I would have to say that I am the least judgmental person I know but that does not make me non-judgmental. Very rarely do I consider what people do with their lives and draw any conclusions about that person. I look for the good in people. I don't care if you are promiscuous, if you are homeless, if you have no job and don't want to work, nor do I care if you take tina seven days a week.

Does that make me non-judgmental? No, it does not. What it makes me is tolerant. Truth be told, I am obsessed with body images and while I am no Tyson Beckford, I find myself thinking, she is fat, she needs to lose weight or she would be so pretty a few pounds lighter. Does any of this matter? No, it does not. A person's weight is their prerogative. My obesity does not interfere with your life so why does it bother you so much?

Let's talk about life for a minute and ponder the question. Is all of life just one big competition being judged every step of the way? Actually, life is one big stage and we all take turns as contestants and then as judges. My one and a half year-old nephew is the Gap kid. Well, he is the black Gap kid. He won the spot from thousands seen. He looks at his picture in the store and says, " Stefan, me" with a big grin on his face. His mother though she was paid handsomely, for his cute unknowing image all over the Gap store started off his pageant days at a very early age. Though he is not yet scarred by the competition, because he is too young to understand, it is undeniable that the judging of young Stefan has begun.

Have you ever noticed that the smart kids in grade school are the prettier kids? How ironic, as the less beautiful kids catch up and surpass those later in life. The reason for this is that teachers focus on pretty little Pagan and handsome Harry more so, than they do on obese Owen or thick lipped Tamara.

The same drama continues throughout our adolescent and adult lives. What people think of us is very important to most of us and before we know it we are living for the judges and not ourselves. We try to please our parents and teachers in grade school. Then we try to please our friends and fit in as teenagers and not to mention as adults, we try to please the dick we are getting from whomever. We become obsessed in what people think of us that we forget that our lives is just that, our lives. No matter what others think we can only control our lives and we should live it the way we really want.

Now that we have established that we are thrown into the competition of life and being judged every step of the way, lets think about how important it is to live up to the judges expectations.

The only time it is necessary to live up to the judges expectations is when you are actually competing in a pageant or contest of some sort, that is designed to be judged on specific criteria. However, if there isn't a tiara off to the side, along with a cash prize, then you need to set your own rules and be your own judge. Quite frankly, throw out the score sheet and do as you please. What others think of you is not important if you are doing your best, being true to yourself and being impeccable with your word.

In essence therefore, the important thing is to live your life for yourself. You are already a winner just be always being true to you.

So strut for the judges, let them watch you serve, throw them shade, eat the runway and regardless of what they might say, do it like no one is watching. CLK

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Written By Don Sneed

COME HELL OR HIGH WATER

THE JOB HAS TO GET DONE

July 29, 2004 Dallas, Texas, reporting during the ongoing Monsoon/Deluge of July 28th, 29th. My beloved Brothers/sisters, fathers/mothers, sons/daughters and other readers of Clikque Magazine, I ask your forgiveness for my delay in reporting to you on the HIV/AIDS catastrophe that has stricken our Black people throughout the world and especially in our Motherland, Africa.

As a member of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA), which charges it's members to provide the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Tommy Thompson and President Bush with advice, recommendations and information that is at each member's disposal, for relief of the AIDS catastrophe. For those of you who know me personally I continue to execute my advisory duties honesty, steadfastness and the old time 1960's Civil Rights era courage - come hell or high water.

The International AIDS Conference recently concluded in Bangkok, Thailand, and for us {Black folks} the news went from horrifying too tragic (mind you this is 22 years into the epidemic). Each of my readers knows someone with the deadly AIDS virus or someone or many that have already succumbed to this Scourge of the 21st Century. In 2003 5 million people were newly infected with the Deadly AIDS virus [Please do not believe the hype - AIDS will still kill you DEAD!}. In 2003 3 million people died from AIDS will a total of 21.8 million body bags since the beginning of the epidemic. Just in case any of you all have been too busy too notice: the majorities of the 21.8 million dead bodies are black people and the majority of them or black women! In our country black SGLs (Same Gender Loving) males the heaviest and most vicious of the HIV/AIDS disease burden, with Black women close on our heels. The majority of Children in our nation with HIV/AIDS are Black Children. I refuse to continue to wax eloquent about how horrible this Epidemic is for us. Suffice it to say that HIV is a weapon of mass destruction when it comes to its effect on Black People, not only in America, but also throughout the world. The question is what are we going to do about it?

The answer to that question is much of nothing. Let us cut to the chase. The American taxpayers and other public and private entities have shouldered the overwhelming majority of the burden for providing the economic resources (money) for black organizations to prevent the spread of this disease amongst our people and to provide life sustaining services to those of us who already have it. Brothers/Sisters, lets take of the blinders, pull the cotton from our ears and get our feet out of our mouths: this approach is killing us. At the recent 23rd Meeting of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS I made it quite clear and had it entered into the records my concerns regarding the adverse impact of individual and institutionalized racism on the disproportionate health outcomes for Black Americans when it comes to AIDS. I went on to point out my observation of the domination, control and manipulation of billions and billions of public and private dollars for HIV/AIDS relief in this country by White gay men and the organizations run by and/or controlled by them. It should be apparent to even a deaf, dumb and blind individual, with severe mental defects and disorders, that our white gay and lesbian brothers/sisters are either clueless as to what to do to effectively serve Black people with or at highest risk for contracting HIV or they are suffering from a chronic case of apathy by choice. Let me reassure all of you: I love all 6 billion plus of God's Children on this planet but I do and will take issue with any of their behaviors that cause pain, death and suffering to innocent individuals and/or groups. Remember, many white gay nightclubs, throughout America still have "Black Folks nights" at their clubs (one night out of the week or month when Black people are made to feel welcome.

We have only ourselves to blame, primarily, for this tragic state of affairs. During the 22 years of the AIDS Death March (Pandemic) black gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual, transgender, Down-Lo (deep Cover, In the Bushes, Between-the-Sheets, or whatever) brothers have been missing in action, asleep at the switch, or out to lunch for lunch meat when it comes to coughing up some serious dollars of their own to fight this monster called HIV/AIDS. This has, truly, not been the case with our White Gay/Lesbian counterparts on the other side of town. Please, let us refrain from engaging in this propaganda, sham and out right lie that Black Gays/lesbians, etc., don't have the money to donate. I heard just last week that some Brothers/Sisters are feverously organizing a Black

COME HELL CONTINUES ON PAGE 16

Mr. Don Sneed is a senior staff writer of Clikque Magazine. As Agency Director of Renaissance III in Dallas, Texas, Mr. Sneed has been a pillar in our community fighting the spread of HIV and AIDS. In January of 2003 Mr. Sneed was sworn in by Claude Allen, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, to serve a four-year term on the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA).

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

Gay/Lesbian Pride week in Buctussell/hootersville just in time for Kwanzaa/Christmas/New Years holiday season and the three main hotels and other venues are already sold out!!! Black Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals, SGLs, Down-Lo {Under-the-Covers, in-the-bushes, "EE Trade Boiz {electronic-email} whatever, have more than adequate disposable cash to match Black AIDS Service Organizations annual Budgets, dollar-for-dollar, in private donations, yet for over 22 years they have refused to because they are too self-centered, selfish and self-absorbed to not only give of their money, talents and time but also to even give a damn!!! This sort of behavior, trust, is sure to bring the wrath of God upon the heads of the individual and collective perpetrators of such a crime against humanity on this side of the sky, not on some "Judgment Day" after everyone is dead (probably from HIV/AIDS). Is Humanity to believe that a white SGLs life is more valuable to their brothers and sisters than ours is to us?!!!

Many Black AIDS Service Organizations, throughout America, are struggling to keep our doors open and executive directors are falling dead at their desks, having to continue to work 80 plus hour weeks under the horrific mandatory constraints, stipulations and regulations imposed upon us by public and private funding entities. Let us be for real my brothers and sisters; we are children of God and human too. In an effort, for us, as a people, who can afford it, to more effectively respond to a WMD terror which has claimed the lives of over 5 million Black women already; KIXCON (King-X Continuum), Inc., Renaissance III, Inc., and the young Black gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and Down-Lo brothers of the ALBRC (Abe Lincoln Black Republican Caucus) Dallas, Chapter, will introduce the 1-in 5-500 Emergency Black Private Citizens HIV/AIDS RELIEF Campaign.

The 1-in-5-500 Campaign will be announced at a press/media conference in Atlanta, Georgia, on August 18, 2004. This campaign will call upon 500 of our Black Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Down-lo/etc., Brothers/Sisters in five major cities to donate $1,000.00, within 30 days to a designated Black AIDS Service organization in their hometown with an ongoing Pledge of continuing support for a five-year period.

Because our beloved Brothers/Sisters have been so reluctant to contribute their minds, talent, time and most of all money, to save one another's lives {as our white counterparts do on the other side of town} the organizers of the 1-in-5-500 Black Private Citizens HIV/AIDS Emergency relief Campaign, will be borrowing a tactic from our counterparts playbook and publicly out those SGLs, who can afford it, who refuse to help us help one another. It is an insult and an international disgrace for us to ask and expect others to do for us that which we could and should be doing for ourselves. Please LOVE {not lust} one another. Love is Life.

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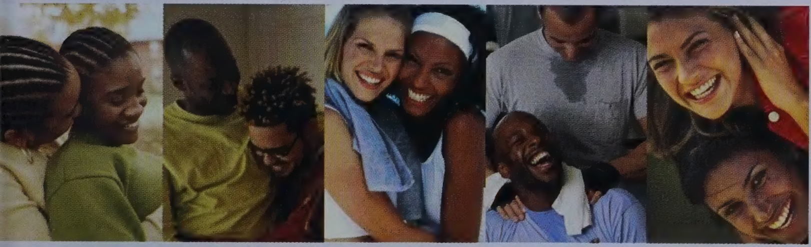

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STUDY FINDS NO EVIDENCE
OF HIV SUPERINFECTION AMONG HIGHLY EXPOSED COUPLES

A study of 33 HIV-positive couples who engage in frequent unprotected sex finds no evidence of HIV superinfection, the term given to the idea that one can be infected with multiple strains of HIV that are slightly genetically different. The study by researchers at the Gladstone Institute of Virology and Immunology in San Francisco, which was presented at the 15th International AIDS Conference in Bangkok, Thailand, calls into question the widely held perception that HIV-positive people are susceptible to additional infections by viral variants that may be drug-resistant or more virulent, says lead researcher Robert Grant, MD.

The ongoing investigation, known as the Positive Partners study, began in 2001 and will eventually involve up to 200 HIV-infected couples. It is designed to investigate the incidence of HIV superinfection. In addition to the couples cited in these preliminary study findings, 30 individuals reporting multiple partners were included in the study. One of them, a participant who had recently developed HIV infection, presented with a highly divergent variation of the virus at a follow-up visit. "This one case demonstrates that people who have recently developed HIV-1 can harbor multiple viruses," notes Grant. "In contrast, superinfection has not appeared in people who have had the disease for many years, as our couples have."

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The possibility that superinfection may be restricted to a short window period after the development of HIV has been suggested by experimental studies in nonhuman primates. In addition, a recent mathematical analysis demonstrated that superinfection restricted to a short window period after HIV seroconversion could account for the high prevalence of recombinant and dual infections observed in some parts of the world. This analysis has just been published in the July 23, 2004, issue of AIDS, the journal of the International AIDS Society, as a paper titled "HIV-1 Superinfection and Viral Diversity," by Grant and investigators Kimber L. Gross and Travis C. Porco of the San Francisco Department of Public Health.

"Studies are warranted to better understand why superinfection among patients who have had HIV for a long time is rare," Grant explains. "The mechanisms preventing superinfection may include specific or non-specific antiviral immune responses or viral interference. If there is indeed an immune response at play, it's reasonable to investigate the possibility of inducing that response with a vaccine that can be made available to high-risk HIV-negative individuals."

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Written By Carrington JaRel Lei

Does the black family bear some responsibility for

the "DL" brotha and the HIV infection rate in African-American women?

At some point, and who dares suggest when, "sup!", "baby daddy", sagging pants, Escalades on 22's, basketball and hip - hop all became synonymous with the African-American male. As "flattering" as all of that may seem (and that's usually depending upon who you are and where you come from), there is yet another affectation to add to our repertoire. Neatly tucked beneath our mattresses right next to the guns, gold teeth, demo-tapes and drug stashes; black men can now proudly lay claim to the term, "DL".

According to the latest CDC statistics, African-American women account for 72% of all new HIV cases and HIV/AIDS is among the top three causes of death for African-American men ages 25-54. While not totally disagreeing with those numbers - as I have complete confidence in the people who have devoted their time and energy to researching them, I am not as emphatic regarding the implication behind them. How does one alter the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the African - American bisexual male without addressing the justification behind the bisexual male?

As the current trend in pop-culture seems to have become laying blame for these numbers and their contribution to the breakdown of the black family on the shoulders of the "DL brotha", it is just as alarming that no one seems to be willing to call to task the black family for their contributions in creating the "DL brotha"!

"Faggot! Punk! Sissy! Gay! Funny!" Depending upon who you are and the context of your delivery, directing one of these terms at a black man can either get you dismissed as a hater or just as easily, get you a quick ass-kickin'. As a kid growing up in a not so typical black family, I reflect upon my own youth and entree' into adulthood where, rare was the occasion that I can recall a time when either of those words were directed towards someone as a term of endearment. Never have I witnessed someone walk up to a father and his thirteen year old son to offer, "Man, your little faggot has some serious speed; you should try to get him on the track team." Or, "Girl, I remember when I used to change his diapers, now look at him, he turned out to be a handsome lil'punk!"

BY THE #s

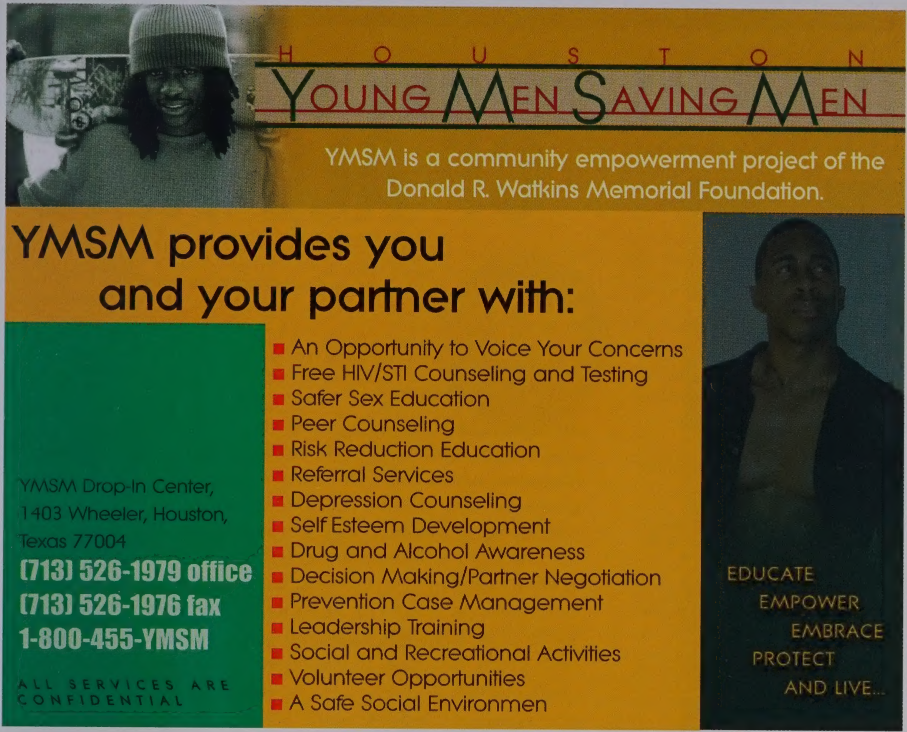
According to statistics received from the Center for Disease Control, one in 160 black women are infected by HIV and one-fourth of them are unaware of their status. Of particular concern is the fact that **64%** of all new HIV cases reported in 2003 were Black women.

Words such as these foster and inspire self-loathing, self-hatred, embarrassment and ultimately, the desire for a child to distance himself from all things gay or, "faggot-like". These comments are sometimes used in everyday conversation by a father, an older brother, an uncle, a mother, and in some cases even "granny" had a comment about the "bull-dagga" down the street.

Never met with a smile or a hug, these terms are always spat with disdain, contempt or hatred and typically coincide with feelings of anger. What child struggling to understand his/or her own same-sex attraction dare reveal these confusing feelings to his family or anyone close to him or her? Reveal that you are gay or bisexual to the very same people who have inadvertently addressed you with such repulsion? How dare we suggest that these children are now expected to approach friends and family with the revelation that, "I'm too, a faggot!"?

The African-American family has for far too long been caught up in what everyone else thinks and not spending enough time focusing on self and unconditional love. In a lot of cases, the crack-head we hide our valuables from when he stops by for a visit is more welcomed into our homes than the sister who is simply in love with another sister. I've personally gone into homes where there were pictures on the walls and atop the television of the son who is serving a life-sentence in prison for his "third-strike" or in some cases murder and not one of the son who went to college graduated, bought his own home, his own car and has never been in trouble. We're ashamed of him because he has a voice that is higher than we deem it should be, or dare I say because his eyebrows are arched. Why? Because he chooses to love another man and even with all of his accomplishments, he is still an embarrassment to the family.

We are so quick to point out the passages in the bible that single out homosexuality, but we make room at our tables for the adulterer who brings his woman to



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the family reunion while his wife is at home.

Is it acceptable for a man to worship Michael Jordan, Lie to his brother, Covet his neighbors wife, commit adultery, and steal from his job, yet give him a pass while breaking five of the Ten Commandments but search the bible for a passage that speaks of homosexuality in an effort to demonize the homosexual? We have a tendency to pick which laws in the bible we choose to be governed by, which are usually the ones that apply to everyone else so we negate the fact that we continually break most of the Ten Commandments - "How 'bout them punks?"

At some point in our society, homosexuality has inched its way up the sin hierarchy to take its place as the ultimate sin and this writer does not believe that it's fair to the millions of same gender-lover people who work, love and lead productive lives to continue this destructive trend.

The black family, the black church and the black community as a whole has jumped on the "gays are evil" bandwagon and damaged our children to the point that when they become men, they forgo who they truly are in an effort to please society, but most importantly, to please those closest to them, family. There are more black men who marry and have children, yet lead the "DL" lifestyle because the black community dictates that they are supposed to and not necessarily because they want to, than most realize. Many gay or bisexual men live in cities far away from the realities of "home" because the reality is that it's more acceptable to be who you are from afar because that way we don't have to see it. Where are the statistics for the number of men and women who are HIV positive because they don't love themselves enough to truly care about protecting themselves from a possibly deadly disease because they've never felt loved?

Society says that as a black man by the time you are twenty-three, you are supposed to have at least three children with two baby mommas and at least one woman on the side and if not, you must be a fag! We need to love ourselves and our children enough to ensure that they know that no matter what they are or who they become, family is a bond that nobody, no disease, and no orientation can break.

The Black man's disappointment with his effeminate son is evident, whereas the white man, like his sons choice or not, is at minimum tolerant of it and in a lot of cases the lover/boyfriend becomes a part of the family.

As African-Americans, we have to become more conscious of the affect our personal beliefs have on our children and allow our children to become who they are on their own. When a white man has an affair his family doesn't know about it until he leaves her a house in his will because he understands the importance of allegiance to family and nothing, not even a long - term affair, will interfere with that. We, as African - Americans seem to be more caught up with what Miss Gladys down the street thinks than what our children might be going through. Although I think we understand that we must love our child because of who he is, the hard part is getting us to understand that there may also come a time when you have to love your child despite who he is.

From Barnes & Nobel

TOP SELLING GAY TITLES OF ALL TIME

#1 Invisible Life

by E lynn Harris

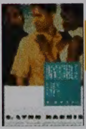
Invisible Life is the story of a young man's coming of age. Law school, girlfriends, and career choices were all part of Raymond Tyler's life, but there were other, more terrifying issues for him to confront. Being black was tough enough, but Raymond was becoming more and more conscious of sexual feelings that he knew weren't "right." He was completely committed to Sela, his longtime girlfriend, but his attraction to Kelvin, whom he had met during his last year in law school, had become more than just a friendship. No matter how much he tried to suppress them, his feelings were deeply sexual.

Fleeing to New York to escape both Sela and Kelvin,

#2 GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN FROM THE PUBLISHER

"Mountain," Baldwin said, "is the book I had to write if I was ever going to write anything else."

Go Tell It On The Mountain, first published in 1953, is Baldwin's first major work, a novel that has established itself as an American classic. With lyrical precision, psychological directness, and a rage that is at once unrelenting and compassionate, Baldwin chronicles a fourteen-year-old boy's discovery of the terms of his identity as the stepson of the minister of a storefront Pentecostal church in Harlem one Saturday in March of 1935. Baldwin's rendering of his protagonist's spiritual, sexual, and moral struggle of self-invention opened new possibilities in the American language and in the way Americans understand themselves.


INVISIBLE LIFE
E. LYNN HARRIS
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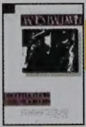
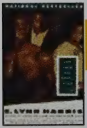
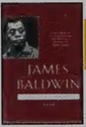

JAMES BALDWIN
2

JUST AS I AM
E. LYNN HARRIS
3


E. LYNN HARRIS
4

E. LYNN HARRIS
ABIDE WITH ME
5


JAMES BALDWIN
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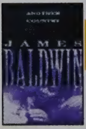
Iceberg Slim
MAMA BLACK WIDOW
7


ANOTHER COUNTRY
JAMES BALDWIN
8

E. LYNN HARRIS
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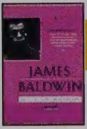
LOVE THE ONE YOU'RE WITH
10

11

ZAMI
AUDRE LORDE
12


JAMES BALDWIN
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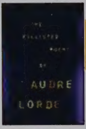
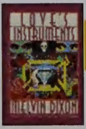

AUDRE LORDE
15

The Necessary Hunger
16

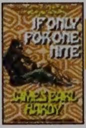
17

18

E. LYNN HARRIS
INVISIBLE LIFE
19


LOVE'S INSTRUMENTS
MELVIN DIXON
20

2ND TIME AROUND
JAMES EARL HARDY
21


IF ONLY FOR ONE NITE
JAMES EARL HARDY
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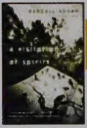
a visitation of spirits
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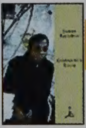

24

25

Top Sell African-American Gay Fiction of all time

1. Invisible Life
E. Lynn Harris / Paperback / Bantam Doubleday Dell Publishing Group / February 1994

2. Go Tell It on the Mountain
James Baldwin / Mass Market Paperback / Dell Publishing Company, Incorporated / May 1976

3. Just as I Am
E. Lynn Harris / Paperback / Bantam Doubleday Dell Publishing Group / February 1995

4. And This Too Shall Pass
E. Lynn Harris / Paperback / Random House Adult Trade Publishing Group / March 1997

5. Abide with Me
E. Lynn Harris / Paperback / Knopf Publishing Group / May 2000

6. Giovanni's Room
James Baldwin / Paperback / Dell Publishing Company, Incorporated / June 2000

7. Mama Black Widow
Iceberg Slim / Paperback / Lushena Publishing / June 1972

8. Another Country
James Baldwin / Paperback / Knopf Publishing Group / January 1993

9. If This World Were Mine
E. Lynn Harris / Paperback / Random House Adult Trade Publishing Group / July 1998

10. Love the One You're With
James Earl Hardy / Paperback / HarperCollins Publishers / July 2003

11. Go Tell It On the Mountain (Modern Library Series)
James Baldwin / Hardcover / The Random House Publishing Group / July 1995

12. Zami: A New Spelling of My Name: A Biomythography
Audre Lorde / Paperback / Crossing Press, Inc., The / April 1988

13. Go Tell It on the Mountain
James Baldwin / Paperback / Dell Publishing Company, Incorporated / June 2000

14. Loving Her
Ann Allen Shockley / Paperback / Northeastern University Press / September 1997

15. Collected Poems of Audre Lorde
Audre Lorde / Paperback / Norton, W. W. & Company, Inc. / January 2000

16. Necessary Hunger
Nina Revoyr / Paperback / St. Martin's Press / March 1998

17. Revenge Is Best Served Cold
Tracie Howard / Paperback / NAL Trade / October 2001

18. B-Boy Blues: A Seriously Sexy, Fiercely Funny, Black-on-Black Love Story
James Earl Hardy / Paperback / Alyson Publications / November 1994

19. Invisible Life
E. Lynn Harris / Audio / Random House Audio Publishing Group / March 1999

20. Love's Instruments
Melvin Dixon / Paperback / Tia Chucha Press / October 1995
Our Price: $10.95
Usually ships within 2-3 days

21. 2nd Time Around
James Earl Hardy / Paperback / Alyson Publications / September 1996

22. If Only for One Nite
James Earl Hardy / Paperback / Alyson Publications / May 1998

23. Visitation of the Spirits
Randall Kenan / Paperback / Knopf Publishing Group / January 2000

24. Giovanni's Room
James Baldwin / Hardcover / The Random House Publishing Group / May 2001

25. Don't Explain: Short Fiction
Jewelle Gomez / Paperback / Firebrand Books / July 1998

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

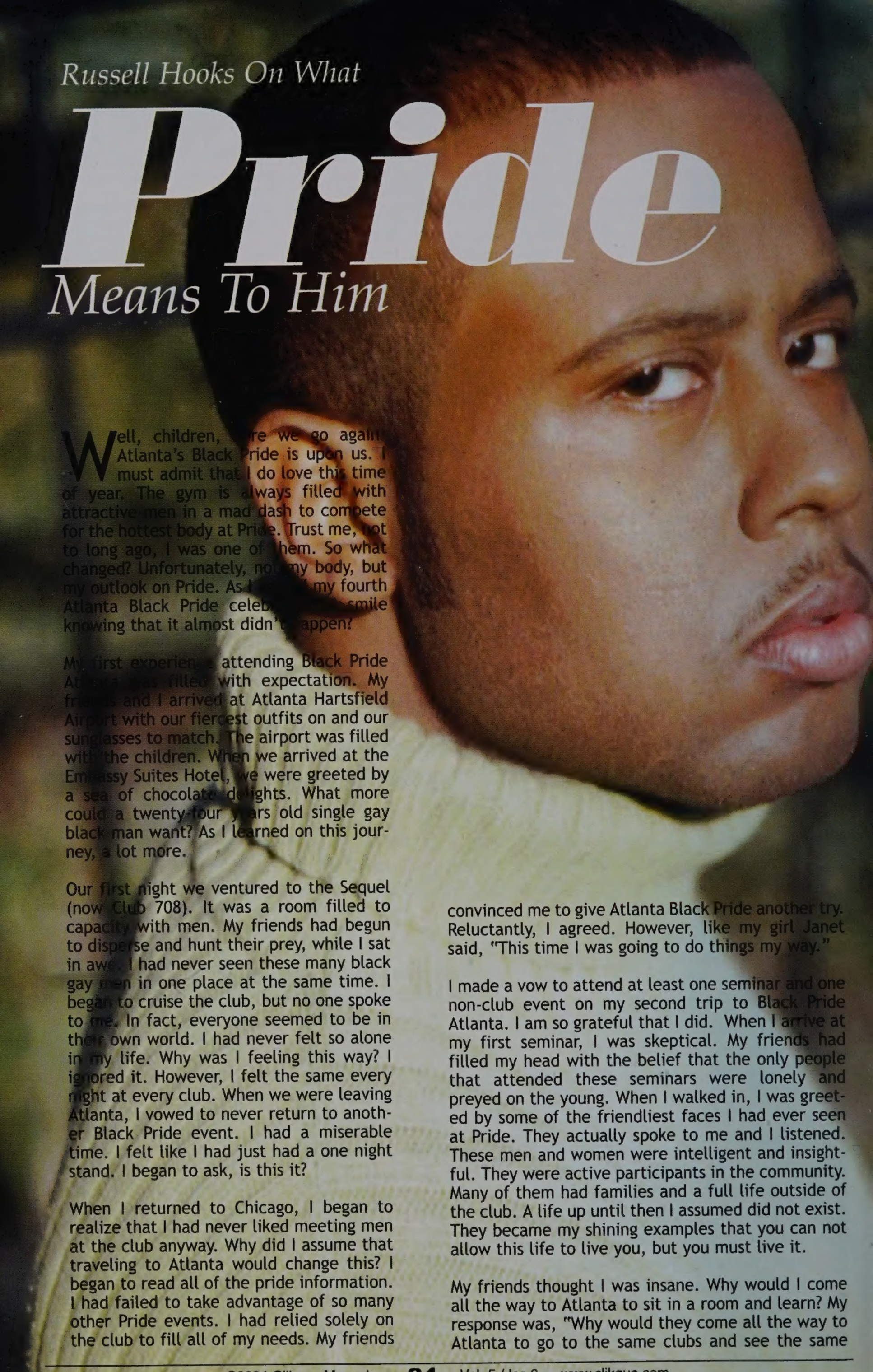
Raymond finds himself more confused than ever before. New relationships—both male and female—give him enormous pleasure but keep him from finding the inner peace and lasting love he so desperately desires. The horrible illness and death of a friend force Raymond, at last, to face the truth.

Invisible Life has been hailed as "one of the most thought-provoking books—since James Baldwin's Another Country" (Richmond Voice), and Harris's "stories have become the toast of bookstores, reading groups, men, women, and gay and straight people" (Atlanta Journal-Constitution). Proceeds from the sale of this special fifth anniversary edition will go to the E. Lynn Harris Foundation, a charitable organization that gives young people across the country the opportunity to study writing with established authors, and also aids emerging artists.

TOP 10 BOOKS SOLD AT OUTWRITE

1	***The Angel & The Poper***, by J.L. king, *Random House*
2	***What Becomes ...Broken Heart***, E Lynn Harris, *Random House*
3	***I'm On My Way***, Christopher Davis, *Author House*
4	***Luther***, Craig Seymour, *Harper Collins*
5	***Black, Gay and Christian***, Herndon L Davis, *Davis, Lett & Assoc.*
6	***Brothers of New Essex***, Belasco, *PGW*
7	***Passion Marks***, Lee Hayes, *Simon & Schuster*
8	***Any Way the Wind Blows***, E Lynn Harris, *Random House*
9	***Kindred***, Octavia Butler, *Houghton Miffin*
10	***If This World Were Mine***, E Lynn Harris, *Random House*

The list was compiled for Clikque Magazine courtesy of Outwrite Bookstore in Atlanta, Ga. Pick-up one of the books above by visiting Outwrite or a bookstore near you.



Russell Hooks On What Pride Means To Him

Well, children, here we go again. Atlanta's Black Pride is upon us. I must admit that I do love this time of year. The gym is always filled with attractive men in a mad dash to compete for the hottest body at Pride. Trust me, not to long ago, I was one of them. So what changed? Unfortunately, not my body, but my outlook on Pride. As I [illegible] my fourth Atlanta Black Pride celebration [illegible] smile knowing that it almost didn't happen?

My first experience attending Black Pride Atlanta was filled with expectation. My friends and I arrived at Atlanta Hartsfield Airport with our fiercest outfits on and our sunglasses to match. The airport was filled with the children. When we arrived at the Embassy Suites Hotel, we were greeted by a sea of chocolate delights. What more could a twenty-four years old single gay black man want? As I learned on this journey, a lot more.

Our first night we ventured to the Sequel (now Club 708). It was a room filled to capacity with men. My friends had begun to disperse and hunt their prey, while I sat in awe. I had never seen these many black gay men in one place at the same time. I began to cruise the club, but no one spoke to me. In fact, everyone seemed to be in their own world. I had never felt so alone in my life. Why was I feeling this way? I ignored it. However, I felt the same every night at every club. When we were leaving Atlanta, I vowed to never return to another Black Pride event. I had a miserable time. I felt like I had just had a one night stand. I began to ask, is this it?

When I returned to Chicago, I began to realize that I had never liked meeting men at the club anyway. Why did I assume that traveling to Atlanta would change this? I began to read all of the pride information. I had failed to take advantage of so many other Pride events. I had relied solely on the club to fill all of my needs. My friends convinced me to give Atlanta Black Pride another try. Reluctantly, I agreed. However, like my girl Janet said, "This time I was going to do things my way."

I made a vow to attend at least one seminar and one non-club event on my second trip to Black Pride Atlanta. I am so grateful that I did. When I arrive at my first seminar, I was skeptical. My friends had filled my head with the belief that the only people that attended these seminars were lonely and preyed on the young. When I walked in, I was greeted by some of the friendliest faces I had ever seen at Pride. They actually spoke to me and I listened. These men and women were intelligent and insightful. They were active participants in the community. Many of them had families and a full life outside of the club. A life up until then I assumed did not exist. They became my shining examples that you can not allow this life to live you, but you must live it.

My friends thought I was insane. Why would I come all the way to Atlanta to sit in a room and learn? My response was, "Why would they come all the way to Atlanta to go to the same clubs and see the same boys we have in Chicago? Now I am not one of those bitter girls who hate the club. Quite the opposite; however, let's not hate on those who want to experience more from Pride.

Reeling from this experience, I attended the Black Pride Marketplace. I was amazed at some of the things that people in our community were involved in. From art, literature, music, and community involvement, I met so many fascinating and nice people.

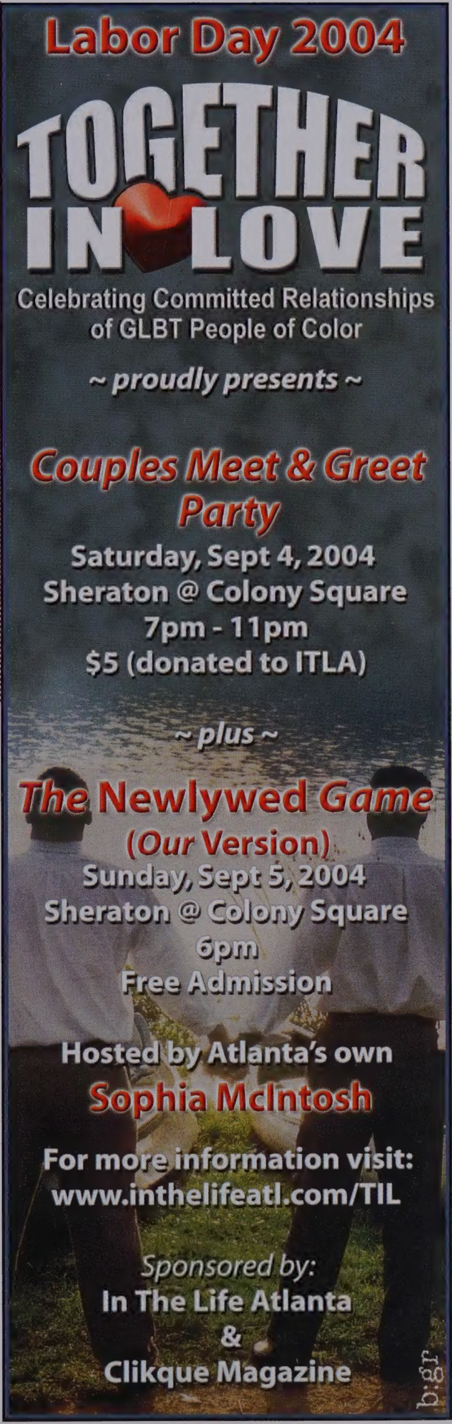
The same people that I had met early that afternoon were some of the faces that I passed by at the club that evening. And guess what happened this time? They spoke. In fact, attending these seminars and non-club events interwoven with the club only enhanced my Pride experience.

Now as I venture towards my fourth Atlanta Black Pride experience. I have even taken it one step further. I realized that many people felt the way I felt at Pride. Many of us are looking for alternative avenues to intermingle with the community at Black Pride. Now I am actively involved in creating other avenues for people to experience all that Atlanta Black Pride is and can be.

I am one of four incredible black men (James, J and Sean) who have co-founded, Together In Love, an organization committed to celebrating and championing the importance of African-American gay and lesbian relationships. This year we are proud to co-sponsor two events alongside In the Life Atlanta, Clikque Magazine, David Magazine and Southern Voices that will celebrate our couples. YES!!! My promotional company, I.M.G. Promotions, is also producing Peace Out South. An international G/L/B/T hip-hop concert which will be held Sunday, September 5th, at Phase One. This benefit concert will expose many of these pioneering G/L/B/T hip-hop artists to Atlanta for the first time.

As I conclude this article, I reflect on my own growth since my first Atlanta Black Pride. The pride that almost became my last. I realized that my experience at Pride only became better when I took it upon me, myself, and I to make it better. At this years Pride, if you felt the way I felt at my first Pride, I challenge you to step outside of the club at least for a moment and venture to one of these activities. I hope this will not only heighten your experience at Pride, but lead you to a better understanding of you and your community. Who knows? Maybe next year, I'll have the honor of attending one of your Atlanta Black Pride events? Stay true, and always do you. See you at Pride!

Russell D Hooks is co-creator of Together in Love. A social group committed to the celebration of African-American gay and lesbian relationships. He is also the President of I.M.G. Promotions. A company whose mission is to expand the voice of hip-hop to include the L/G/B/T community. He can be reached at russell.hooks@suntrust.com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What Pride Means To Me

Malik Williams, **HIV Prevention Specialist - AID Atlanta**

People often ask, "Why Black Gay Pride? Why be proud about just being who you are?" Too often, though, just being who I am is frowned upon, disparaged, attacked and maligned. Being who I am means having to listen to politicians, ministers, and various other unqualified commentators talk about how my "agenda" is threatening their way of life. Being who I am means explaining to my sistahs on a daily basis that HIV doesn't care about labels and identities. Being who I am means sometimes being an outsider in my own communities. Why Pride? Because being who I am takes more than just living, it takes courage. It takes commitment to truth. It takes a willingness to stand up, speak out, and fight oppression. And I believe integrity is something to be proud of. Why Pride? Living my life unapologetically — being who I am — is reason enough.

Photo by: Carlton Wilkinson, Art Works Photography Nashville

Pride is one word that means so many different things to so many people. For me, it is an action word that means accepting who you are inside and letting it show without fear on the outside. It's not just a word that is synonymous with Gay/Same Gender Loving issues; it can range anywhere from culture, to ethnicity to style of dress or music. By living one's truth in all facets of your life including relationships, sexuality, heritage and culture, I think any person that visually reflects such an image is what having pride can mean to someone. - Dwayne Jenkins, Brothers United Network of Tennessee Inc., Nashville Black PRIDE.

Dwayne Jenkins, **Brothers United Prog**
Coordinator @ Nashville Cares

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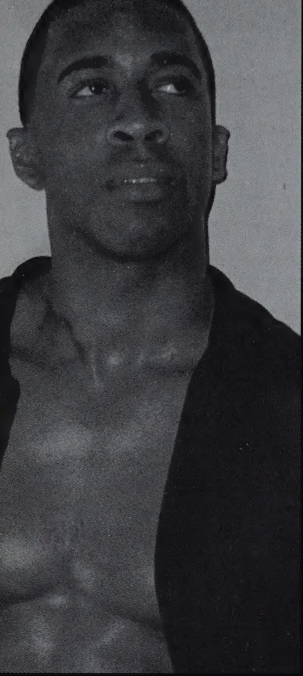
Super Male Revue Starts @ 11PM

SUN. SEPT 5TH



What Pride Means To Me

James Broussard, Prevention Case Manager YMSM

To me, Black Gay Pride means jumping on a plane with my good friends to Atlanta with the expectation of a No Holds Barred good time. I see a sea of diverse bruthas from all over the U.S. coming to one city, to one spot to let it all hang out. Martinis, margaritas, shots, and Coronas swallowed at the bar. Janet, Beyonce, Ludacris, Britney, Lil John, T.I., etc. screaming from a blazing sound system. And me, moving around the club in a tight pair of low rise jeans and some bad ass cowboy boots.

Kevin Bynes, Program Coordinator For The Deeper Love Program @ - AID Atlanta

Very often I hear from white people who lack understanding that they do not see the need for a Black Gay Pride. Questions like "Why do they need their own pride?" surface constantly every year as we approach the pride festivities. So when asked to respond to the question "What Black Gay Pride means to me," I saw an opportunity to answer this question for the naysayers.

It has been suggested that Atlanta Pride should be for everyone. I tend to agree with this sentiment. I do have some questions, however, about who's job it is to make pride for everyone. I've many time heard this point raised as if it is the responsibility of Black folks to make this event for everyone as opposed to the responsibility of the Atlanta Pride Committee and that we should endure the feelings of alienation and otherness for the good of the whole. Pride should be for everyone, so ignore your needs and come celebrate with us.

Black Pride is my opportunity to be Black and Gay in multiple spaces for an entire weekend. Rarely do I get to be in a casual informal space that is both black and gay and be fulfilled. At Black Gay Pride, in that host hotel, I get to walk as my whole self into spaces. This is what Black Pride means to me.

THURSDAY 9.2.04
engage the hottest hoards of visiting men. start your holiday weekend off right with a new man or a whole freaky bunch.

FRIDAY 9.3.04
tonight will bring you closer and closer to an orgasmic experience bump and grind with the sexiest men.

SATURDAY 9.4.04
the ATL hot spot is banging off the chain. slam down on the dance floor the best dj and his beats.

SUNDAY 9.5.04
groove with the most on point men at the ritual tea dance, suntea, of the atl. the family reunion.

MONDAY *labor day*
get in your last hours of partying.
fullfill your fantasies to last you
till next year!!!

blackgaypride
atlanta labor day

ATLANTA
2004
Black Gay Pride
ITLA
UNITY
proud sposor of
black gay pride

GET HERE EARLY TO AVOID LINES

4 BARS TO SERVE YOU

THE HOTTEST MUSIC

OUTDOOR GRILL ON OUR BIG DECK

BULLDOGS
893 Peachtree St. 404 872-3025
Open Daily 4pm-3am Sun 4pm-12am ATM
Visit Us Online at bulldogsbar.com

In The Life Atlanta Candle Light Vigil

2004

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2004
7:00pm TO 10:00pm
STUDIO PLEX 659 AUBURN AVE.

ITLA CELEBRATES THE LIVES AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF THOSE WHO PASSED FROM THIS EARTH. JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE WITH MUSIC, ART AND DANCE IN A JOYOUS REMEMBRANCE OF OUR PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE.

ATLANTA
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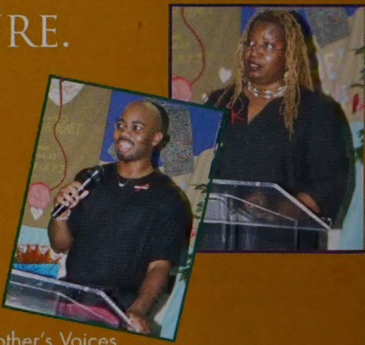

Sponsored in part by:
Dekalb County Board of Health and Mother's Voices

Atlanta's 2nd Annual Black Gay & Lesbian film festival

See Us In The Life

Showcasing films by and about same gender loving people of African descent

Presented by:

In The Life Atlanta, Inc.
In Collaboration with
àFRIsistahs & MoJAM Entertainment

September 2nd and 5th 2004

The Ski Trip – Maurice Jamal 80mins
Ski trip is a zany feature-length romantic comedy following the hijinks of a close group of 20-something gay friends

*Butch Mystique - Debra Wilson 35mins
Butch Mystique exposes the rules, thoughts, passions and concerns of African American butch-stud, identified lesbians.

Karmen Geï - Joseph Gaï Ramaka 82 mins
A retelling of the celebrated Carmen myth set in contemporary Senegal to African music and dance.

SEX, THE TALK - Wanda "Angel" Brown 3mins
This international documentary covers women in London, Johannesburg, Nigeria, Brazil and the USA about their true life stories and views on sexually transmitted diseases, the misconceptions of woman to woman safer sex and ways to bring up the safer sex conversation before being intimate.

Dakan - Mohamed Camara 87 minutes
Dakan is the first feature film on homosexuality from sub-Saharan Africa. It is the story of two men who by "coming out" disappear, become invisible to their families and society, because their society has no language, which recognizes their love.

Desperate in Love - Wanda "Angel" Brown 30mins
A Black Lesbian who's been out of the dating scene for quite some time; desperate for love, goes through all the drama that comes along with finding true love only to realize she need to love herself first.

If I Wuz Yo Gyrl - Coquie Hughes 75 min
An Experimental Work-In-Progress:
An urban drama about domestic violence between lesbiancouples

venues-TBA

for more information contact:
afrisistahs@bellsouth.net

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IN THE LIFE ATLANTA **ADVERTISEMENT**

Atlanta Black Gay Pride 2004

EVENT

Wednesday – September 1st, 2004
Clubs & Parties
Bulldogs - 893 Peachtree Street FREE with your VIP All Access Pass

WassupnATL Bowling Party – Location TBA

Thursday – September 2nd, 2004
Registration
12:00PM - 10:00PM Host Hotel - Sheraton Colony Square Passes available for pickup or purchase (if available)

Candlelight Vigil - FREE
7:00PM- 10:00PM @ Studioplex - 659 Auburn Ave Celebrate the lives of friends and family who have transitioned to the next journey in their lives. Sponsored in part by Dekalb County Board of Health

ÀFRIsistahs & Roots & Rhythm presents See Us In The Life Film Festival
PT 1 – Location TBA Screening starts at 7:00PM prompt
$15.00 at the door - 30% discount with VIP All Access Pass

Clubs & Parties
Bulldogs - 893 Peachtree FREE with your VIP All Access Pass

Affair with Flair's 70's & 80's Black Pride Kickoff party – 8:00pm until @ Leopard Lounge 84 12th Street - $5.00 - FREE with your VIP All Access Pass

San Juan Brothas Welcome Reception - 9:00pm to 12:00AM @ WETbar - 960 Spring Street - $5.00 – FREE with your VIP All Access Pass

WassupnATL Welcome to Atlanta Party @ Club Colours – FREE with your VIP All Access Pass

Friday – September 3rd, 2004
Registration
10:00AM - 10:00PM Host Hotel - Sheraton Colony Square

VIP Reception
6:30PM - 7:00PM Grand Ballroom North – FREE
Hosted by Clikque Magazine, **this reception is for invited guests and media only.**

Meet & Greet - FREE
7:00PM - 7:30PM Grand Ballroom North – FREE
Appetizers and Cash Bar, Meet your friends, neighbors, and fellow brothers and sisters in our pre kick off social.

Opening Reception - FREE
7:30PM - 9:30PM Grand Ballroom North
Welcome from ITLA Board of Directors and official kick of. Celebrate the start of the weekend with musical and performance artists for your entertainment. Cash Bar

Welcome Party
11:00PM - 4:00AM Crown Room (27th Floor) - Host Hotel - An Evening of Color – Featuring the sounds of DJ Cedric

LISTINGS

Atlanta Premier of Noah's Arc + Q&A with Director and Cast - Sat Sept 4th 9:00PM Host Hotel

Black Pride Marketplace - FREE
4:00PM - 11:00PM Grand Ballroom South - Host Hotel - Featuring local and national community retailers, organizations, and allies offering unique gifts, merchandise, and information tailored just for you.

SpeakFire! - An evening of Erotica (open Mic)
12:00AM - 3:00AM - Host Hotel
Share your most innermost desires, dreams, and realities in an evening of erotic spoken word performance art. $8.00 (Free with VIP All Access or UNITY Pass)

Clubs & Parties
Bulldogs - 893 Peachtree Street FREE with your VIP All Access Pass

Affair with Flair's "The Silk Party" The sexiest upscale dance party in Atlanta with R&B recording artist, DJ, Buffet, and Door Prizes - 10:00pm until @ Silk – 919 Peachtree St - $15.00 - FREE with your VIP All Access Pass

My Sister's Room - 222 East Howard Decatur
FREE with your VIP All Access Pass
Saturday September 4th, 2004

Registration & Information
10:00AM - 10:00PM Host Hotel
Passes available for pickup or purchase (if available)

Black Pride Marketplace - FREE
10:00AM - 10:00PM Georgia Ballroom South Featuring local and national community retailers, organizations, and allies offering unique gifts, merchandise, and information tailored just for you.

Community Luncheon and Panel discussion
11:30AM - 2:00PM $25.00 (Free with All Access VIP, UNITY, and Conference passes)

Workshop Series (Day one)
2:00PM - 6:00PM – Host Hotel

Health and Wellness Fair
12:00PM - 4:00PM - Grand Ballroom North
Learn about the health issues unique to African American men and women. Free health screenings for diabetes, hypertension (high blood pressure), referrals for STD and HIV testing, nutrition information, mental health, and holistic medicine. This health fair is intended to cover the whole you, from top to bottom to help you live healthy and happy

WassupnATL Pool Party – 418 Armour Drive
4:00PM - 8:00PM – (Metro Inn Conference Center Pool – behind the hotel)
(FREE)

Poetry Slam
6:00PM – 9:00PM Host Hotel
$5.00 (Free with VIP All Access or UNITY Pass)
(spoken word artist must register at the registration desk any time prior to 3:30PM)

ZAMI Presents: A Feast Of Kings: Girls Do Boys
9:00PM - Grand Ballroom North
(ZAMI's hosts it 3rd Annual Drag King Show benefiting its Audre Lorde Scholarship Fund)

IN THE LIFE ATLANTA **ADVERTISEMENT**

Atlanta Black Gay Pride 2004

EVENT LISTING

Couples' Meet/Greet Bash – Sponsored by Together In Love
7:00PM – 11:00PM – Host

Outdoor Activities – Piedmont Park
Spades Tournament – Sponsored by NetFlix – Park Pavilion
Volleyball Tournament – Location TBA
4:30pm to 7:30pm Dodge Ball Tournament – Location TBA 4:30pm to 7:30pm Tug-of-War – Location TBA – 4:30pm to 7:30pm

Clubs & Parties
Bulldogs - 893 Peachtree Street FREE with All Access Pass

WassupnATL True Pride Party @ Traxx – 339 Marietta St - 50% off with VIP All Access Pass

Affair with Flair's "Cherries & Berries" - R&B Recording artist, DJ, Buffet, and Door Prizes @ Cherry 1051 West Peachtree St. $15 or FREE with VIP All Access Pass

Sunday September 5th, 2004
Interfaith Worship Service - Free
11:00AM – 12:00PM - Host Hotel

Workshop Series (Continued)
2:00PM - 6:00PM
Black Pride Marketplace - Free
12:00PM - 6:00PM Georgia Ballroom South Featuring local and national community retailers, organizations, and allies offering unique gifts, merchandise, and information tailored just for you.

Literary Café
5:00PM - 7:00PM - Host Hotel
$5.00 Donation (Free with VIP All Access or UNITY Pass)

ÀFRIsistahs & Roots & Rhythm presents See Us In The Life Film Festival - PT 2 Location TBA
Doors open at 5:00pm Screening starts at 5:00 prompt
$15.00 at the door 30% discount with VIP All Access Pass

Newlywed Game – the Gay Version
6:00PM – Host Hotel - Hosted by Ms. Sophia McIntosh

The Famelee Affair Hip-Hop Concert
Presented by IMG Promotions
7:00pm – 10:30pm Location TBD

$5.00 (Free with VIP All Access Pass)

Outdoor Activities – Piedmont Park

Clubs & Parties
Bulldogs - 893 Peachtree St. FREE with your VIP All Access

My Sister's Room - 222 East Howard. Decatur FREE with your VIP All Access Pass

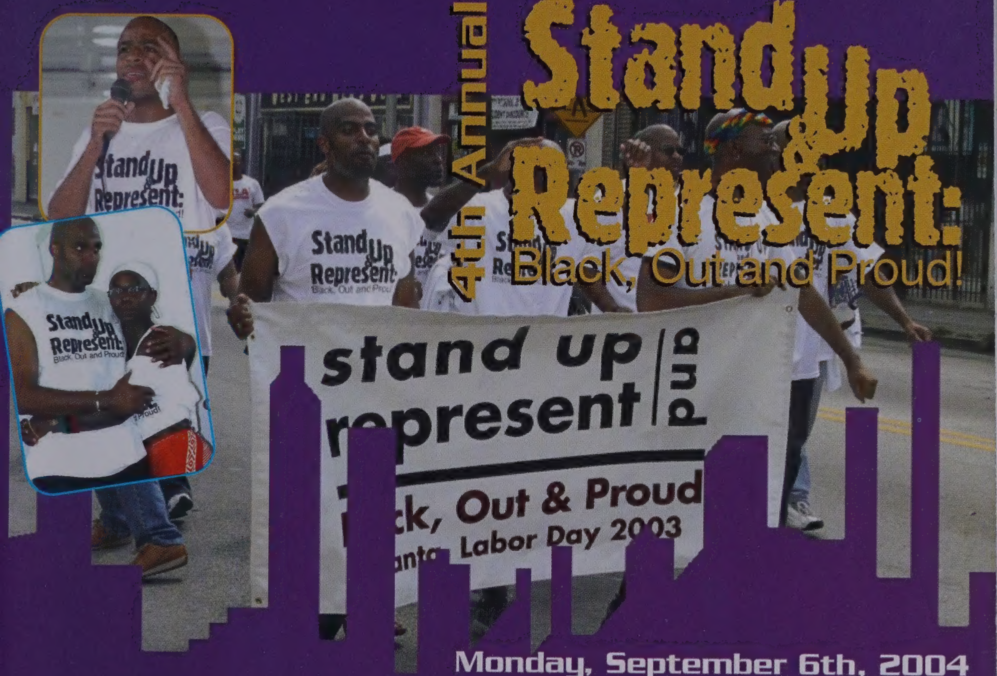
TRAXX - 339 Marietta St – 50% off with your VIP All Access Pass

Monday September 6th, 2004
3rd Annual Stand Up and Represent Black Gay Pride March and Rally
See www.inthelifeatl.com for assemble and step off times

3rd Annual Family Reunion Picnic – Piedmont Park- FREE
1:00PM - 5:00PM - Bring the kids, bring the parents, and bring the smiles as we celebrate the close of the Labor Day weekend as any extended family should!

Atlanta Black Gay Pride 2004 - Sponsors

AID ATLANTA
HORIZON
ATLANTA
Wyndham Hotels
David Atlanta Magazine
Affair With Flair
southern voice
Sheraton Colony Square Hotel Mid-Town Atlanta
Clikque Magazine
eM


Stand Up & Represent: Black, Out and Proud!
stand up represent pub
Black, Out & Proud
Atlanta Labor Day 2003

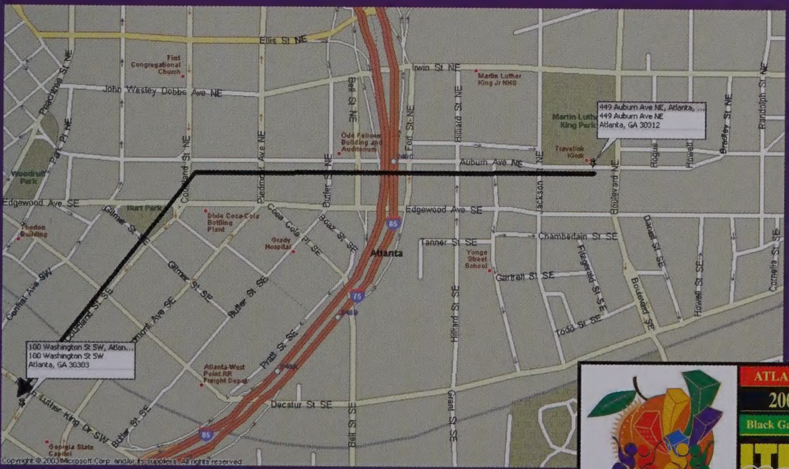
4th Annual Stand Up & Represent: Black, Out and Proud!

Monday, September 6th, 2004

Join us as we make history while marching from the King Center through the historic Auburn Avenue area of Atlanta to the steps of the Georgia State Capitol. The Stand Up and Represent Black Gay Pride March returns to its original route, truly a celebration of our roots and growth.

Be a part of history and Stand Up and Represent!

Assemble: 10:00AM at The King Center 449 Auburn Ave. NE


Ellis St NE
First Congregational Church
John Wesley Dobbs Ave NE
Peachtree St NE
Park Pl NE
Woodruff Park
Courtland St NE
Piedmont Ave NE
Butler St NE
Bell St NE
Odd Fellows Building and Auditorium
Fort St NE
Irwin St NE
Martin Luther King Jr NHS
Hilliard St NE
Martin Luther King Park
449 Auburn Ave NE, Atlanta, ...
449 Auburn Ave NE
Atlanta, GA 30312
Travelink Kiosk
Auburn Ave NE
Jackson St NE
Boulevard NE
Hogue
Howell
Bradley St NE
Randolph St NE
Edgewood Ave SE
Hurt Park
Gilmer St
Dixie Coca-Cola Bottling Plant
Coca Cola Pl SE
Boaz St SE
Grady Hospital
Atlanta
85
75
Tanner St SE
Yonge Street School
Chamberlain St SE
Gartrell St SE
Fitzgerald St SE
Daniel St SE
Boulevard SE
Howell St SE
Cornelia St SE
Todd St SE
Thedon Building
Central Ave SW
Courtland St SE
Gilmer St SE
Butler St SE
Piedmont Ave SE
Pratt St SE
Hilliard St SE
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Atlanta, GA 30303
Atlanta-West Point RR Freight Depot
Decatur St SE
Bell St SE
Grant St SE
Martin Luther King Dr SW
Butler St SE
Georgia State Capitol
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ATLANTA
2004
Black Gay Pride
ITLA
UNITY

Pride on our side

After 11 years in the business, **TRAXX** Nightclub still remains one of the Nation's premiere entertainment spots for black gay men.

Humans have always been able to find a reason to party. Fortunately, because they are cutting edge, contemporary, yet classic, **Boone Management, Inc.**, has always managed to find a plethora of reasons to provide its patrons with an extraordinary time. Boone Management's festivities are dynamic and diverse expressions of what works. Boone Management, Inc., is a trendsetter which carries distinction in its hip pocket and as always will keep its audience captivated.

Boone Management, Inc., is a business of commitment, with over ten years of experience in the entertainment arena. They are one of the leaders of this industry and a major source of Atlanta's nightlife entertainment. According to CEO **Mr. Philip Boone**, they specialize in perfection and guarantee the delivery of incredible service. **Traxx Nightclub** was originally founded in 1985. During this era Traxx Nightclub, a.k.a. Boone Management, Inc., was known as **THE RITZBOYZ**. As The Ritzboyz, Boone Management, Inc., threw parties at various venues, clubs, and at home every Saturday Night. ***In fact, Home, Atlanta Overlook, Apt. K-11, is where the saga began.***

In 1989, the late **Mr. David Hampton** became the Manager of the **Phoenix** a.k.a. Traxx. When the Phoenix was closing its doors in 1993, Mr. Hampton and Mr. Boone ceased the opportunity to reopen the Phoenix as the **Legendary Traxx.**

Boone Management, Inc., was founded in Atlanta, GA in 1993, and is now one of, if not, the most popular gay African-American male production and promotion company in the

country. In 1984, Mr. Boone was the Room Service Manager for the Ritz Carlton. In 1986 he was the Banquet Captain for the Marriot Marquis. Of note is the extraordinary fact that Mr. Boone opened both establishments. Boone was the General Manager for Dante's Down The Hatch from 1986-1994. Mr. Phillip Boone, a Manager in Atlanta's thriving restaurant/hotel industry for over ten years, founded Boone Management, Inc. 11 years ago the doors to Traxx Nightclub opened offering customers a high energy, safe, and sexy environment for men who love to party with men.

Boone Management, Inc., prides itself on catering to every facet of the gay community. BMI provides a quality function and the fiercest music in the South.

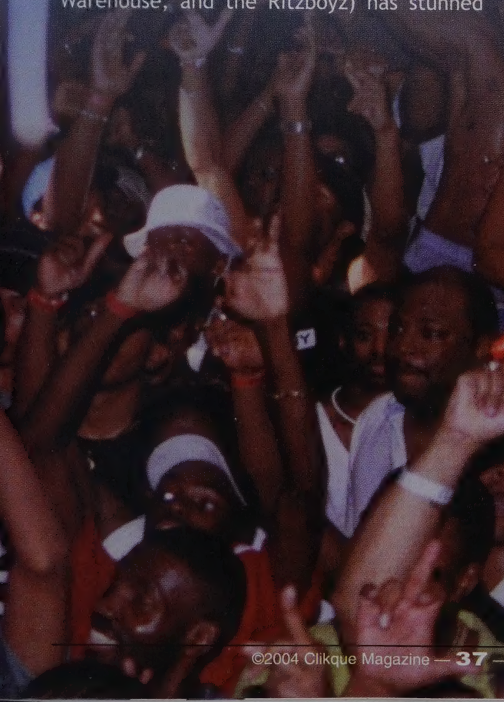
This company's pulsating vibes have electrified Atlanta, as well as party goers from the East to the West coast since 1993. **Foxy Brown, T.I., Crystal Waters, Biggie Smalls, Busta Rhymes, Nas, Total, Martha Wash, Tupac, Faith, Monica, Usher, Outkast, Keith Sweat, Da Brat, Mary J. Blige, Tribe Called Quest, Rakim, Kid Capri, and Biz Markie** are a few of the artist who have graced our stage with electrifying performances. Boone Management, Inc., (a.k.a. Traxx, Barcode, Warehouse, and the Ritzboyz) has stunned its listening and dancing audience over and over again.

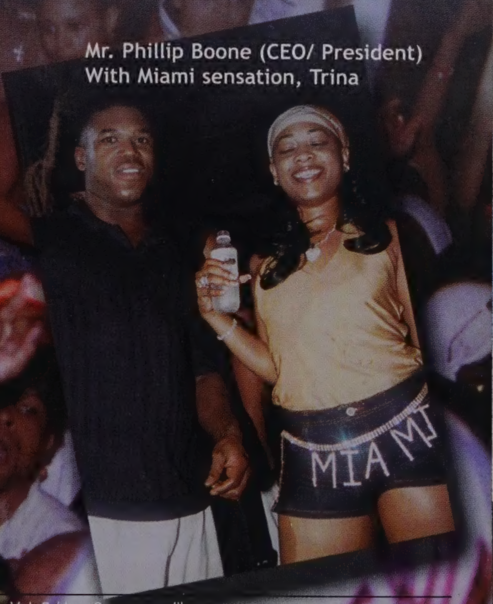
Boone Management, Inc., not only prides itself on entertaining its community, but BMI also prides itself on educating, enlightening, and enhancing the community, by working with several organizations, such as: My Brother's Keeper, N.A.E.S.M., I.T.L.A., the AIDS Walk, most African-American Fraternities and Sororities, as well as many of the city's Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Mr. Boone is also a member of Atlanta Chamber of Commerce and the National Hotel/Restaurant Association.

Boone Management, Inc., is dedicated to entertaining and overwhelming its customers and will continue to do so in the future by hosting the hottest functions of the century. Catch Boone Management at work this Labor Day weekend in Atlanta GA at 306 Luckie St.

The dynamic Traxx team consists of
Mr. Phillip Boone (CEO/ President)
Mr. Homer Hammonds (General Mgr/P.R.)
Mr. Durand Robinson (Operations Manager)
Mr. Anthony Whitehead (Creative Director)
Mr. Gerald Thomas-"g" (Promotions/P.R.)



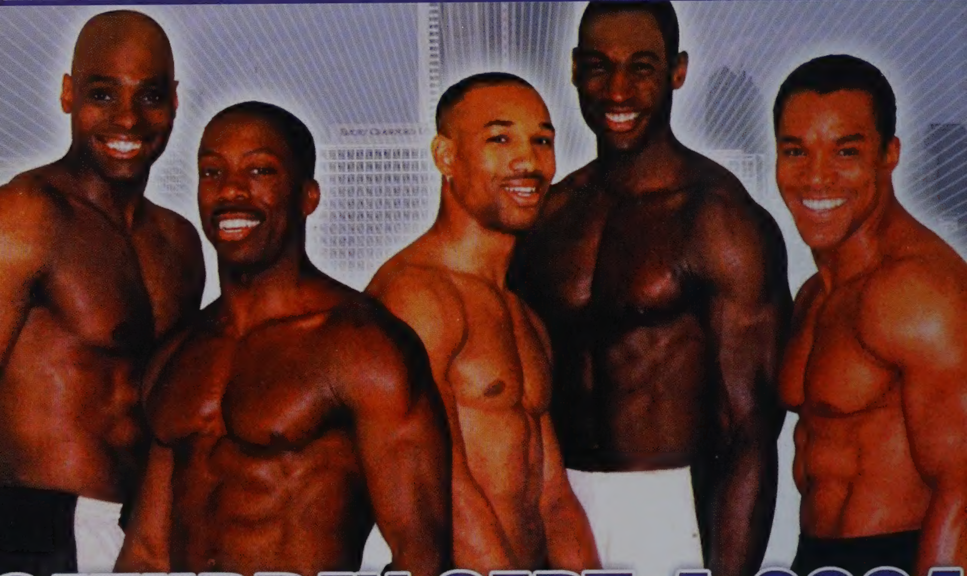


Mr. Phillip Boone (CEO/ President)
With Miami sensation, Trina

LABOR DAY '04 ~ TRAXX PRESENTS:

MERGE

"Bringing Men From Across The Nation Together"



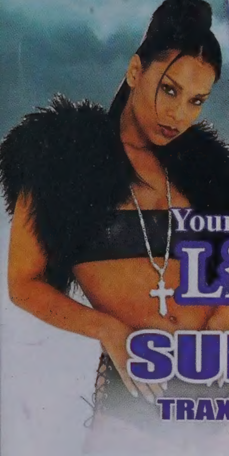
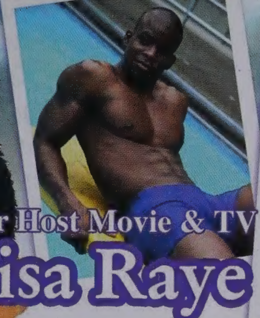
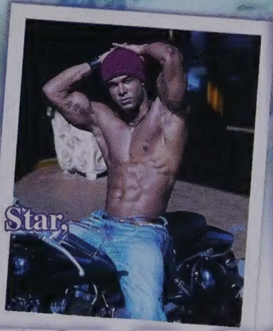
SATURDAY, SEPT. 4, 2004

TRAXX PRESENTS:

INTERGRATION

Join over 5,000 men partying to the hottest & hardest music, enveloped in a realm of temptation, seduced by the Nation's most alluring Go-Go Dancers and fueled by intoxicating drinks.

HIP-HOP MUSIC BY: HOT 107.9'S DJ TRUZ • DOORS OPEN @ 10PM

Your Host Movie & TV Star,

Lisa Raye

SUNDAY, SEPT. 5, 2004

TRAXX IN ASSOCIATION W/ N.A.E.S.M PRESENTS:

ALL OF US

TRAXX'S CELEBRATED POOL PARTY@ PIEDMONT PARK

Come get HOT, STICKY & WET with over 1,000 gorgeous men at the fiercest pool in HOTLANTA. Dive into the Olympic size pool. Be athletic at the tennis courts, baseball & soccer fields. Groove on the large dance floor to the hottest Hip-Hop music. GUARANTEED a Fabuous time rain or shine. Plus a Fabulous firework display.

OPEN BAR 3-4PM • FREE BAR-B-QUE • DOORS OPEN @ 2PM • PIEDMONT PARK

MONDAY, SEPT. 6, 2004

"MONDAY NIGHT WITH THE STARS OF THE CENTURY"

BLEND

Hosted by the witty, Dominique Rashad

Starring: Niesha Dupree, Raquel Lord, Stasha Sanchez, Jasmine Bonet, Necole Luv Dupree, Tamisha Iman, Archie Bonet, Monte St. James, R'Darius Black and a host of celebrity guests.

Limited Table Reservation.

Please contact Felicia @ 404.681.4422 after 3pm on Mon., Sept. 6th

DOORS OPEN @ 10PM • SHOW STARTS @ 12AM

TUESDAY, SEPT. 7, 2004

"THE HIP-HOP PHENOMENON"

MIX

Don't miss the culminating party of the year! Join over 2,000 men partying until dawn to the hard hitting hip-hop beats by:
Hot 107.9's DJ Truz.

$2 BUDWEISERS • DOORS OPEN @ 11PM

***PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL OF ATLANTA'S CLUBS CLOSE @ 2:30AM SO GET THERE EARLY! DON'T MISS THE AFTER HOUR FUNCTIONS**

traxxatlanta@hotmail.com • www.traxxatlanta.com

306 LUCKIE ST. • 404.681.4422

XTREME ENTERTAI

BLACK
MEGA PART

RIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2004

THE LION'S DEN
"SCREAM" PARTY
A Heavenly Experience

THE MASQUERADE
695 NORTH AVE. NE
ATLANTA, GA 30308
DOORS OPEN 9PM – UNTIL

FEATURING: 3 DANCE FLOORS
SURPRISE PERFORMANCE BY NATIONAL RECORDING ARTIST(S)
E SEXIEST ANGELS, THE SEXIEST STRIPPERS, AND THE SEXIEST BOYS ALIVE
MUSIC BY DJ SEDRICK, SHOWS & SPECIAL GUEST DJ AND MORE...

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 200

XTREME ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS
ROCKMOND
DUNBAR
OF THE CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED SHOWTIME ORIGINAL SERIES "SOUL FOOD
AND STAR OF THE INDIE FILM "PUNKS"

THE LIONS DEN
"WET DREAM" POOL PART
Wyndham Atlanta Hotel Downtown Atlanta
160 Spring Street NW
Atlanta, GA 30303
Doors Open 6PM - Until

ALSO FEATURING
6 OF THE SEXIEST HOT BOY DANCERS
AND INTRODUCING THE 2005 LIONS DEN CALENDAR MODELS
"TOP-N-BOTTOMS" FASHION SHOW, SPECIAL SHOWING OF "PUNKS
MUSIC BY DJ JFK & DJ SEDRICK
YOU'VE NEVER HAD A WET DREAM LIKE THIS!

www.xtremeentert

User Name "xtreme" /

Info Line: (770) 991-6929

MENT PRESENTS

PRIDE

Y WEEKEND

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2004

The Ultimate, The Biggest, Weekend Party

THE LIONS DEN

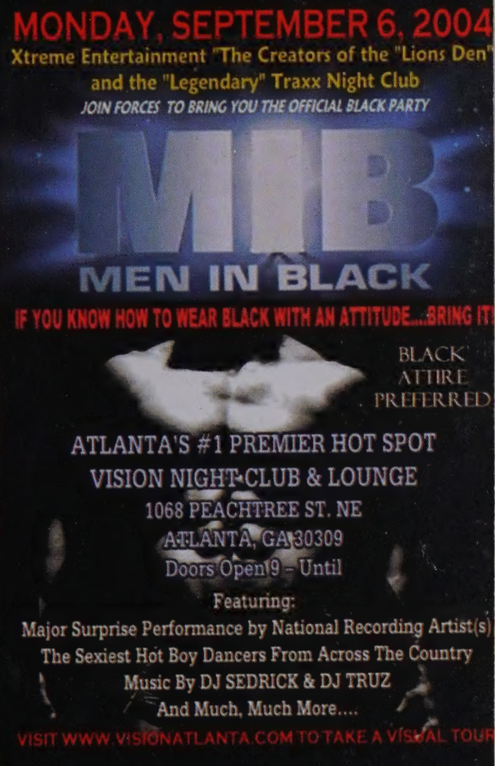
"EROTIC FESTIVAL"

Featuring: 3 Dance Floors
Out Door Festival
Vendors
Surprise Performance by National Recording Artist(s)
The Sexiest Strippers Alive
Shows and More... @

THE MASQUERADE
695 North Ave. NE
Atlanta, GA 30308
Doors Open 6PM - Until

IF YOU THOUGHT THAT LAST YEAR WAS "OFF THE CHAIN"
WAIT UNTIL YOU SEE WHAT WE'VE GOT IN STORE FOR YOU!
THIS PARTY IS SO BIG WE HAD TO MOVE TO A LARGER LOCATION!

Accepting Vendor Applications for Festival
Contact Xtreme @ 770-991-6929



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2004

Xtreme Entertainment "The Creators of the "Lions Den"
and the "Legendary" Traxx Night Club
JOIN FORCES TO BRING YOU THE OFFICIAL BLACK PARTY

MIB

MEN IN BLACK

IF YOU KNOW HOW TO WEAR BLACK WITH AN ATTITUDE....BRING IT

BLACK
ATTIRE
PREFERRED

ATLANTA'S #1 PREMIER HOT SPOT
VISION NIGHT-CLUB & LOUNGE
1068 PEACHTREE ST. NE
ATLANTA, GA 30309
Doors Open 9 - Until

Featuring:
Major Surprise Performance by National Recording Artist(s)
The Sexiest Hot Boy Dancers From Across The Country
Music By DJ SEDRICK & DJ TRUZ
And Much, Much More....

VISIT WWW.VISIONATLANTA.COM TO TAKE A VISUAL TOUR

inmentatlanta.com

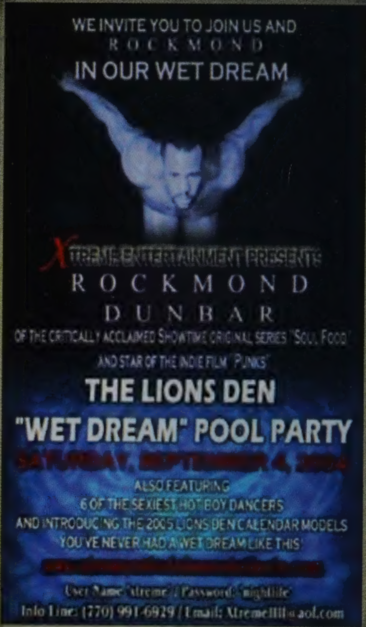
assword: "nightlife"

Email: XtremeIIII@aol.com

XTREME ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

BLACK PRIDE MEGA PARTY WEEKEND

160 Spring Street NW, Atlanta, GA 30303
(404) 688-8600



WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US AND
ROCKMOND
IN OUR WET DREAM

XTREME ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS
ROCKMOND
DUNBAR
OF THE CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED SHOWTIME ORIGINAL SERIES 'SOUL FOOD'
AND STAR OF THE INDIE FILM 'PUNKS'

THE LIONS DEN
"WET DREAM" POOL PARTY
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2004

ALSO FEATURING
6 OF THE SEXIEST HOT BOY DANCERS
AND INTRODUCING THE 2005 LIONS DEN CALENDAR MODELS
YOU'VE NEVER HAD A WET DREAM LIKE THIS!

[illegible]

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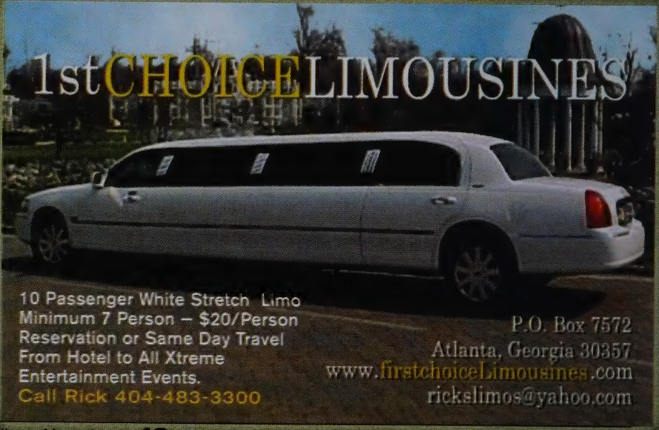

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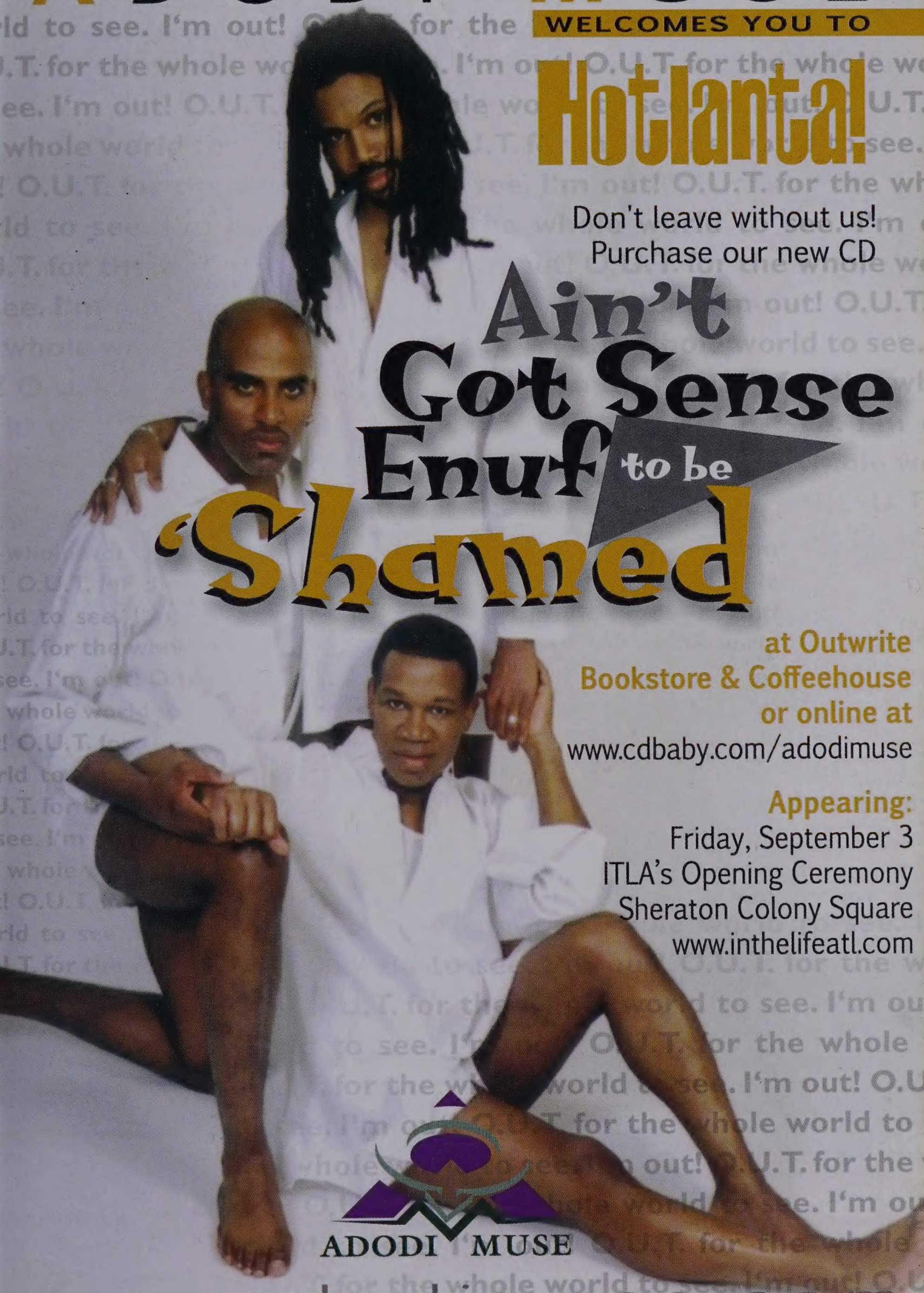

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Clikque Magazine

Movie Review

By Dwight Powell
Editor-In-Chief

NOAH'S ARC

Writer, director and producer PATRIK-IAN POLK has finally done it - produced a mini-series that truly represents black gay men in a way never before captured on television. NOAH's ARC, a hip, steamy, fresh, realistic and delightfully witty mini-series looks into the lives of four gay men living in Los Angeles is a must see. For years we've had to resort to television programs such as Will and Grace, Queer As Folk, Boy Meets Boy, and Queer Eye for

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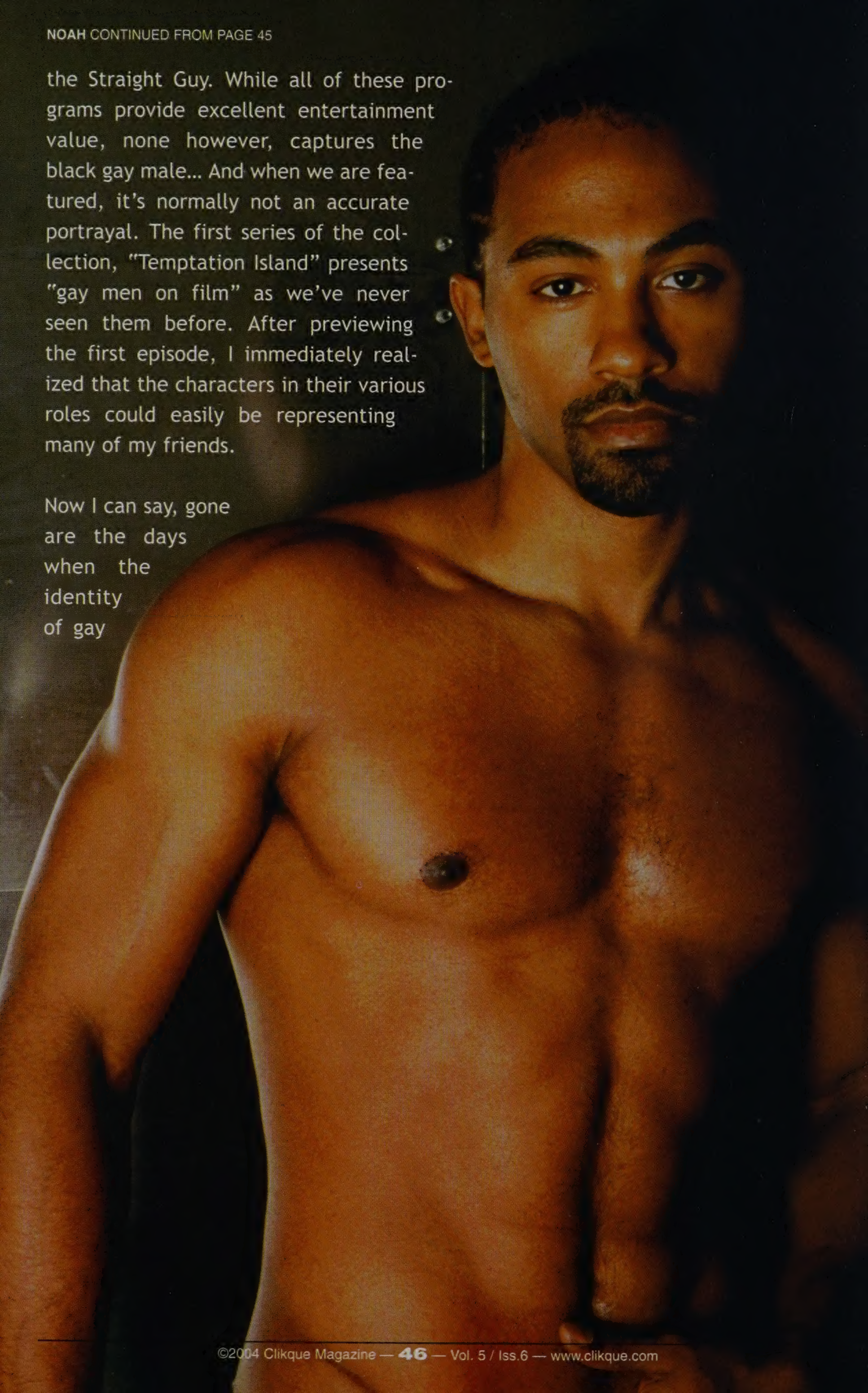


the Straight Guy. While all of these programs provide excellent entertainment value, none however, captures the black gay male... And when we are featured, it's normally not an accurate portrayal. The first series of the collection, "Temptation Island" presents "gay men on film" as we've never seen them before. After previewing the first episode, I immediately realized that the characters in their various roles could easily be representing many of my friends.

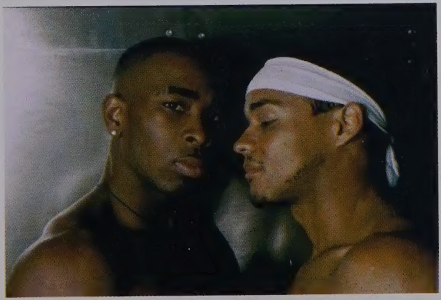
Now I can say, gone are the days when the identity of gay black men is imaged from those of white gay men on television. Polk, with this mini-series, is out to set the record straight that not all gay people are white. Described as Sex and the City meets Queer As Folk and together crashing into Soul Food, NOAH'S ARC provides a venue for gay black men to have a voice and for the first time, show the world the true faces of black gay men, whether they be gay, bi and or most importantly, on the down low. Although the first episode was heavy on sexuality, I am convinced and hopeful that the writers and producers will mix-in a lot of our day-to-day, ordinary experiences that's not framed around our sex lives.

NOAH'S ARC

NOAH's ARC is a hip, steamy, fresh, real and delightfully witty mini-series that's definitely a must see.
— *Dwight Powell,* Editor-In-Chief, Clikque Magazine

SYNOPSIS

Noah, Alex, Ricky and Chance are four friends living the gay life in Los Angeles. Noah (Darryl Stephens) is a struggling screenwriter embarking on a new love affair with newly out and much more successful screenwriter, Wade. HIV/AIDS counselor Alex (Rodney Chester) always keep it real with his clients but struggles to do the same with his anesthesiologist boyfriend, Trey (Gregory Keith). Ricky (Christian Vincent) owns a trendy and hip clothing store on Melrose and is the playboy of the group, while college professor Chance (Doug Spearman) has recently married and adopted his partner Eddie's (Jonathan Julian) three year old daughter after a world-wind courtship. Throw in Chance's amorous teaching assistant, Bryan (Johnny Smith), Ricky's hot, new store clerk, Dwayne (Nate Adams) and flamboyantly fabulous fashion designer Romeo (Dwen Curry) and you've got a recipe for delicious drama, side-splitting comedy and shocking sexuality.



Written By Daniel Vaillancourt

IS THREE A CROWD?

For four of the six years Robert and Dan have been together, they've slept with other men -- but neither has ever cheated on the other. The pair has an open relationship that works. "Never in those first couple of years could we ever imagine coming to this kind of agreement," admits Robert, 29, a restaurant manager in West Hollywood. "But we can't base a relationship -- for us -- on monogamy. If you love each other, sex on the side is just that -- sex."

Robert and Dan's situation is different from secretly having sex with other people, or having an unspoken understanding that occasional "cheating" is OK. Robert and Dan share an agreement that is largely based on communication and honesty.

"I think honesty is more important than anything," maintains Robert, who believes his relationship with Dan is healthier thanks to the guilt each avoids by refusing to be furtively adulterous. "I think we all have other attractions out there, so you might as well be honest and up-front about it."

Not that Robert thinks open relationships are for everybody. "My attitude is that whatever works for two people is the most important thing," he says. "People who criticize [open relationships] are usually the people who are dishonest and doing it behind each other's back, which is much more harmful."

What the 'Sexperts' Say

"Sexual tolerance and flexibility are some of the things that set gay men apart from straight ones," says New York City-based Daniel Wolfe, author of "Men Like Us: The GMHC Complete Guide to Gay Men's Sexual, Physical, and Emotional Well-Being." In some cases, he adds, that can mean successful, healthy, non-monogamy.

"With some exceptions, I believe sexually exclusive partnerships work best for most people," counters Betty Berzon, PhD, author of the bestselling "Permanent Partners," in her follow-up book, "The Intimacy Dance: A Guide to Long-Term Success in Gay and Lesbian Relationships." She writes: "There is a kind of affirmation that comes from being with a lover long-term, building a life, growing closer, and finding deeper levels of intimacy and new ways to please one another sexually."

Still, Berzon -- an L.A.-based activist and psychotherapist who has been counseling gay men, lesbians, and same-sex couples for decades -- understands that the above paradigm isn't suitable in all cases. "The key to making non-monogamy work, when it does," she writes, "seems to be mutually agreeing on the rules and sticking to them."

"Trouble comes when one person has a different understanding than the other about what's expected," adds Wolfe. "Try to be realistic about how much honesty is possible between you by seeing how you handle non-sexual matters. If you make up excuses or fudge on the details when you forget to bring home the dry cleaning, then it's probably not a good idea to foray into the confusing waters of non-monogamy," he says.

Making Up the Rules

"Our supposed rules are never the same person twice, no phone numbers, and discretion," reveals Robert, adding that the couple has a "don't ask, don't tell" policy concerning dalliances. "But I always ask because I always want to know. Sometimes Dan tells, but he never asks me."

The two most common rules governing open relationships are that safer sex precautions should always be taken, and that there be no emotional involvement. Here are a Top Ten list of other issues to consider:

1 Should our open relationship be "don't ask, don't tell," "say everything," or somewhere in between?

2 How intimate should outside sex be? Is mutual JO the only activity allowed? What about oral sex? Anal sex? Kissing?

3 What about three-ways? Nothing but? Never? Now and then?

4 Where can outside sex take place? Anywhere, or are recreational couplings only allowed in sex clubs, bathhouses, gym steam rooms and saunas, and rest rooms? What about in someone else's home or hotel room? In our home? In our bed?

5 Is making "sex dates" allowed, or can escapades only occur spontaneously?

6 What about overnights?

7 When is outside sex allowed? Any time, or just when one partner is out of town, on vacation, etc.? Is it OK for outside sex to interfere with planned or habitual "couple" time?

8 Is sex with mutual friends or acquaintances allowed?

IS THREE A CROWD? CONTINUES ON PAGE 50

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9 Is our relationship to be considered open until further discussion, or should we proceed on a case-by-case basis, discussing -- and permitting -- each "affair" to take place as opportunities present themselves?

10 How open will we be with family and friends about your open relationship?

Keep the Communication Flowing

"Once you do it, you can't go back," says Robert. Still, things happen, mistakes are made, needs change. Don't be afraid to revisit the issues -- and to reinvent the rules -- as needed.

"Every relationship that's alive requires renegotiating at times," warns Wolfe. "As for what happens when one of you falls harder than anticipated for someone else, or when something's not working, the solution returns to the bedrock of any successful coupling: daring to talk about it, and appreciating how "edgy" it can all feel. Remember, straight people provided us with lots of models for adultery, but few for genuine, open relationships.

Remember Safer Sex

One of the many benefits of a monogamous relationship is the reduced risk of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). "The more partners you have, the higher your risk for STDs. While you may only have one fuck buddy, how many does your partner have," he says. That is why it is so important you practice safer sex.

If you think you might have an STD, you owe it to your partner and yourself to get treated immediately. Don't put off going to the doctor because you are too embarrassed or worried about what your partner will think. Remember, if you have unprotected sex with your primary partner and protected sex during outside encounters, you can still get an STD.

WebDiscussion

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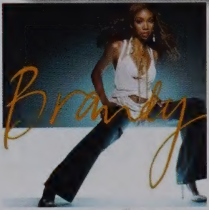

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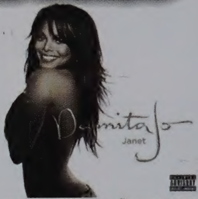
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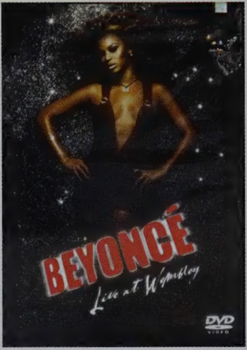
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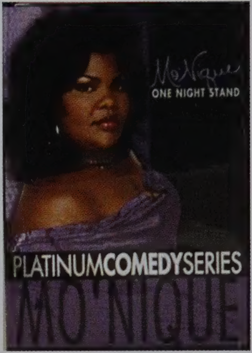
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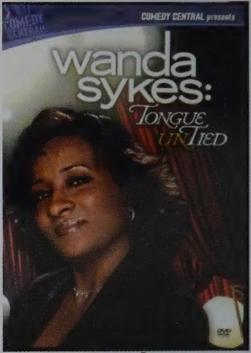
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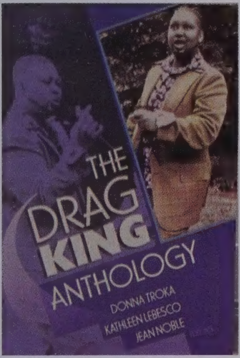
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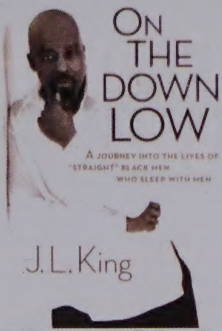
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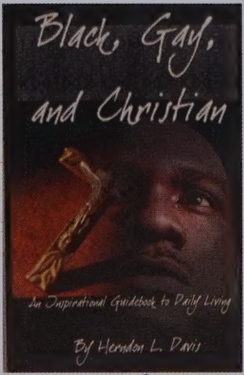
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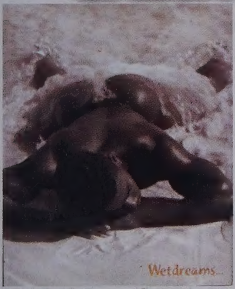

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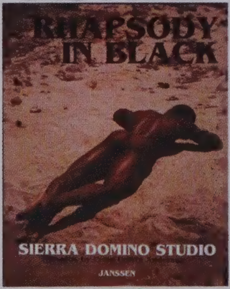
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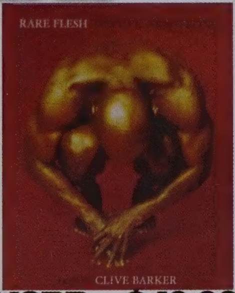
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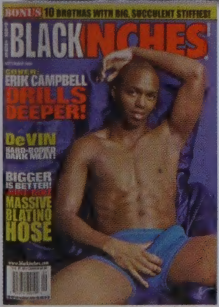
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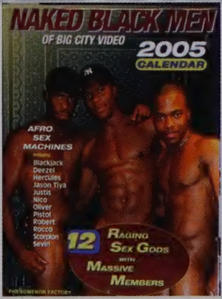
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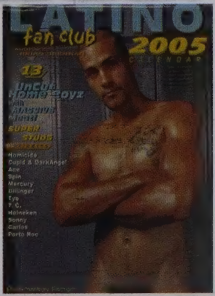
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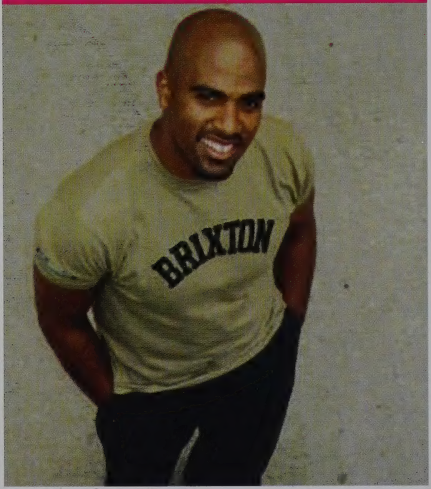
ASS REMIXED

AN INTERVIEW WITH ANTHONY ANTOINE

By Craig Washington

Anthony Antoine, who turned heads when he flipped pronouns with the openly gay themed "Dante's Got A Man", is back at it again with a sizzling late summer release, the delicious "Ass" single and remixes. "Ass" is a steamy tale about boy meets boy with greater booty that features some of the hottest pillow talk since Prince's "Do Me Baby." Standouts include a "Bottom or Top" remix laid on top of Missy's "Work It" and a bold Kellis remake "The Boy Milkshake Song". Anthony Antoine sets new standards of hip hop realness by addressing love, lust and romance between men and up ending dominant attitudes about what it means to be a man. Bringing provocative lyrics, tight hip hop and house flavored hooks, and a range of delivery styles (sometimes intense, sometimes playful, always sexy), Anthony Antoine delivers the goods without compromising the music for the sake of the message.



He has been either performing or producing music for over 15 years and has developed a distinctive vision and the chops to convey it. Back in the 80's the then seventeen year old moved to London where he played with Paul Hardcastle ("19") and garnered an international dance hit "Swing" with The Deff Boyz. He later released two singles including "Under Your Spell" with noted jazz artist Ronny Jordan and performed as an opening act for C&C Music Factory. Since his move to Atlanta in 1999, the Newark native achieved local celebrity status as an independent artist who also performs with Adodi Muse, the self described gay Negro ensemble. It was "Dante" (which received major play throughout the national club circuit) that distinguished Anthony Antoine as an original, one who stood apart from the rest of the hip hop/pop/r&b pack.

I lunched with the dangerously handsome performer to talk about his music and his message and as I anticipated he had a lot to say.

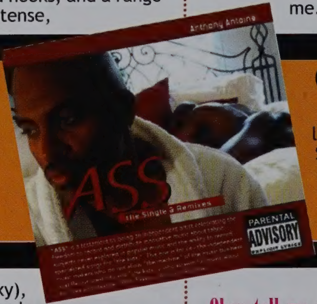
What moved you to do "Ass" (asked with a straight face)?

It's exactly what I wanted to say, I didn't filter it. It's unapologetic. A celebration of being an independent artist. Too often we don't hear our stories told over music.

One of my favorite cuts are "Don'tUEva", your response to hip hop homophobes. And "Curiosity and The Hennessy," you know you have to talk about that.

That was about giving something for the kids that love hip hop. Then hip hop is thought of as hard. As an openly gay artist, I wouldn't be expected to do that and have it carry. That I could create a song in that vein surprised me. "Curiosity and The Hennessy" is my favorite song I've ever written. It's about a man who keeps showing up at my door and says he's not gay. The excuse is the alcohol. "What's up with you and me is a secret I can keep. Call it whatever you please. It's okay with me. Blame the Hennessy"

MUSIC



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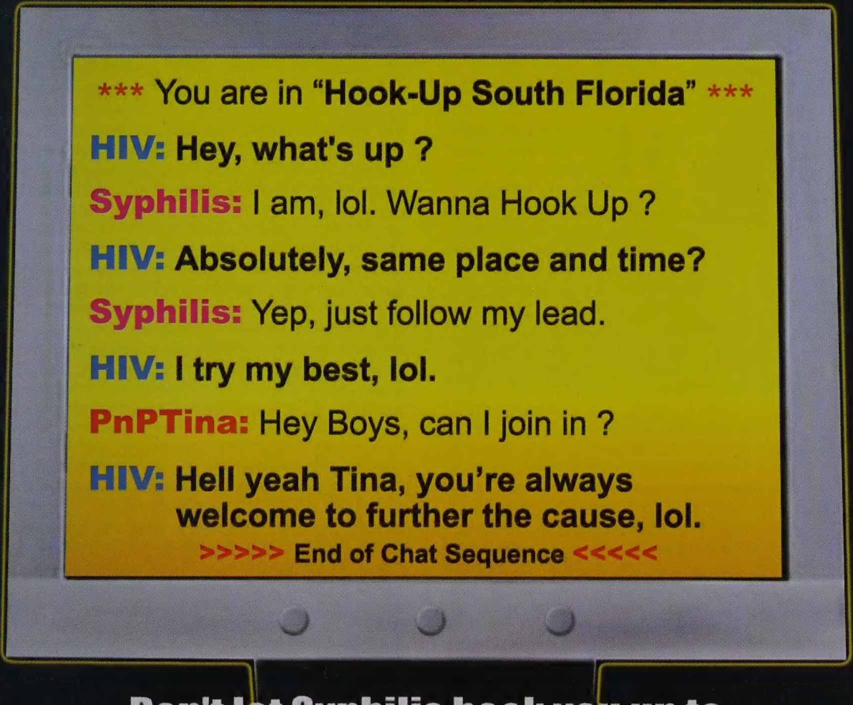
Okay tell me about "I Got The Moves" which features baby, baby daddy and baby mama.

Vogue was 11 when we recorded it. Dana is my baby mama and my best friend. Vogue my daughter

ANTHONY CONTINUES ON PAGE 57

How to Make the World a More POZitive Place



*** You are in "Hook-Up South Florida" ***

HIV: Hey, what's up ?

Syphilis: I am, lol. Wanna Hook Up ?

HIV: Absolutely, same place and time?

Syphilis: Yep, just follow my lead.

HIV: I try my best, lol.

PnPTina: Hey Boys, can I join in ?

HIV: Hell yeah Tina, you're always welcome to further the cause, lol.

>>>>> End of Chat Sequence <<<<<

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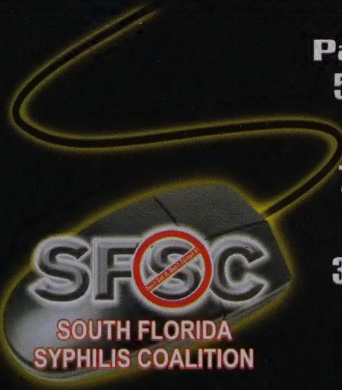

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HEALTH

Written By Craig Washington

BROTHER TO BROTHER

Mr. Washington was lovingly raised by Anna and Leon Washington in Queens, New York and has lived in Atlanta for 11 years. His writings have been published in Clikque, Venus, Arise, Washington Blade, Southern Voice, Atlanta Voice, Atlanta Journal-Constitution, He currently serves as the Volunteer and Training Coordinator for Positive Impact, which provides mental health services for people affected by HIV. He can be reached at cwash360@cs.com.

"Who can love the perfect love, never short or thin?"

Nona Hendics

My earliest memory is a faded picture etched on the underside of my eyelids. I can only see it when I close my eyes and concentrate. Only then will the submerged image float up to the surface and sharpen. It is then I see him as always. His arm stretched just above my head. A giant door opens before me and I walk through. Then it fades out, like a 10 second clip from a fuzzy silent movie. No matter how many times I replay it, it always ends before we get outside. My brother and I. I only know for sure that we are going somewhere together and he is holding the door for me. I figure that I must have been small and very young because the handle is much taller than me.

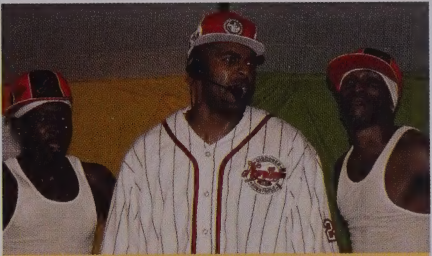
Through hindsight, I can piece together where we may have been headed. The hallway outside of our one bedroom apartment opened out to Northern Boulevard, the main street of Corona, a small Queens neighborhood where I lived the first seven years of my life. Corona was a mix of blacks, Italians, Jews, and Puerto Ricans that at least tolerated each other well. It had been a haven for black musicians since the forties, and known as the place Louis Armstrong called home. Perhaps we were on our way to Mr. Walker's store to get as many sugar daddies and yankee doodles as we could for a dollar. Or maybe we were going to Tyson's barbershop where my brother recalls occasionally seeing a tall, bespectacled redbone man they called Malcolm. On the way, we might have said hello to Steve, a one-armed short sweet dark skinned man in his fifties with the open smile of a seven year old. We would have passed Stacey, our friend Lared's mother, a broom thin young woman with full beautiful lips who talked real fast and cussed all the time regardless of her mood or situation. "How ya'll doin?" she might say, cigarette dangling from her mocha painted bottom lip. "Y'all see that damn Lared? Tell him I'mo kick his ass when he get home. Alright , 'yall be good." It was a good time to grow up in Corona. There was very little on those streets that I feared because my brother always walked with me.

I trusted him fully and completely. So when I gave him my last nickel to go to the store and get me some devil dogs, I believed him when he came back telling me that a local gang roughed him and took that nickel. I was more shocked than angry when my mother came in from work asking who left the devil dog wrapper in front of the door. I somehow knew that I was his, that Kenny more than anyone was directly responsible for me. I used to wonder why he made me join the singing groups he would form even though I could not carry a tune. Sometimes he would berate me for not singing like Michael Jackson. We'd fight and I would quit only to return the next day straining to hit notes far beyond my reach. He was a gifted singer who certainly didn't need me there, as the other group members would tell him. But I was his brother and he would have it no other way. Years later he would stand up to my father during his first tirade about my homosexuality. For what seemed like a very long time, Kenny remained silent as I nervously awaited his response. And when Dad suggested that I see a psychiatrist in order to be cured, Kenny told him to get his own head examined for not accepting reality.
He was my first guardian.

Over the years our growing differences stretched and pulled our relationship thin. As a young man, I grew to accept my sexuality and integrate that self-affirmation along with the cultural pride our parents had instilled in us both. I began writing and performing poetry that narrated my experiences and viewpoints as a gay-identified black man. Kenny married and attended his wife's church where he eventually got saved. He stopped singing secular music and started leading praise and worship choirs. Soon after I had moved to Atlanta with my partner, I noticed that he had stopped inquiring about my personal life. He would still talk about how he and his wife were doing but when I would bring up my relationship he would grow quiet or change the subject. Weeks before a planned holiday visit, he told me that he was uncomfortable with me bringing my partner because we were leading a sinful lifestyle. During another stay, he took me to their church where I sat through an encore repudiation of homosexuality. Although we later discussed how we each felt about these matters, a festering resentment had taken root. I called less frequently and only visited if our parents would be there for Thanksgiving or Christmas. I was genuinely happy to see him then as we would joke and talk about music or movies. But whenever a friend asked me about him, I would focus on the gaps and ignore the ties between us.

My mother sounded almost calm on the recorded message that informed me of his car accident. He suffered a concussion and was partially paralyzed for months. Watching him in the hospital bed, I was reminded of how easily we could have lost him. My anger toward him paled in the stark light of my brother's mortality. After he healed, our relationship has resumed its same old course, so thus had my resentment. But something had changed. (Joni Mitchell never lies.) It became difficult to harbor this hardness in my heart. I took notice of every time he neglected to ask about my personal life or my activist work. But then I would remember how he told me he loved me at the end of every phone call. One evening he called after seeing Earth, Wind & Fire on a pop documentary and within minutes we were immersed in an hour long reminiscence about the music of our youth. We were two middle-aged men harkening the golden age of R&B and praising the slim crop of "real" singers among today's artists. And so it wasn't until the next day that I realized he had not asked me any of those questions that I thought he should be asking me, that I thought he would ask if I were straight. But he did inquire about the novel that I am writing. And as always, his parting words were "love you, man".

Every now and then I want him to express more interest in different aspects of my life. I want him to ask about last month's Clikque article or my work at Positive Impact. I want him to do things that he probably will never do. But if I continue to obsess about what he cannot give, then I will miss that which he can and does give. And so it seems that I am still learning through my brother that which I did not learn from the boyfriends who tried to love me, whom I could not love as they were. A very wise woman once wrote, "Who can love the perfect love, never short or thin?" So many years later, and he is still in some way holding open doors for me. Kenny and I are brothers who share a colorful common history and have made indelible imprints on each other's sense of self. We might never have the kind of emotional intimacy that I enjoy with my closest friends. But we do have a bond that is exclusively ours and it is no less precious. Years ago, my mother told me that in order to prevent my brother from resenting me, during her pregnancy, they would tell him they would come back from the hospital with his baby. Visitors who came to see me were quickly instructed to ask him if they could hold "his" baby. I like to imagine him at 3 years old allowing adults to pick me up. It makes me feel protected and loved.



ANTHONY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 54

is clearly our child, a merge of Anthony and Dana. I'm a father. That's another aspect of me as a gay man. I'm still good friends with my baby mama even though she knows the truth about me.

Who is your audience?

My music is for the kids. Particularly black gay folks. Very few folks have had the opportunity to talk about being gay, sexuality, gay sex on a CD. Gay folks been changing pronouns in songs and applying them to their lives forever. I got emails from a brother in Montana that had gone to my website and heard my music. I didn't think there were black gay folks in Montana (laughs). I'm really pleased. The culmination is that.

How is it working with your producer?

Jimmy George of Wave Motion Sound recording studio. He's the same one that did "Dante's Got A Man." He restored my faith in heterosexual men. Here's a man who didn't know me, who regardless of what I brought to him, he's down. We work so well together. I love that it didn't matter that I wanted to do "gay music". It was good music to him, and he ran with it.

When did you start being openly gay in your music?

Going through coming out and getting comfortable with my sexuality, it made sense that I talk about it in my music. There's a saying that no one can do you like you. There's no one out doing Anthony Antoine. It really evolved as I became more involved in activism and HIV prevention.

Any Hobbies?

Sex, but that's performing too (laughs). No I spend a lot of time with my daughter. I love going to the movies and hanging with her and her friends. She's 13 with a cell phone. I'm a homebody. I love writing, watching good television, Will and Grace, Sex In The City. I love just chillin'.

What inspires you and what do you fear most?

I'm a very passionate person. People who are passionate inspire me. The kids who are passionate about HIV prevention. When they disclose their status, that's revolutionary. My greatest fear is that someone dies without fulfilling what they were supposed to do on the planet. I used to fear that my music wouldn't happen in the way I planned. I don't have that fear any more. You can't take my CDs away from me. They are done.

Want some more? Hit the website at
www.anthonyantoine.com

ANGRY ALL THE TIME

Written By Scott Bogan
Clikque Magazine Senior Staff Writer

Since the last time that I have written a lot has taken place in my life. The friend that I wrote about in May passed away, I turned a year older in June, Dwight and his partner Louis showed me a fabulous time in South Beach, I attended a television pilot premier called Collegeland by Scotty Mullen that I really hope gets picked up by a network because it is very funny and smartly done. Lastly, I have returned to therapy only to discover that I am angry and my anger has taken a hold of me and doesn't seem to want to let go.

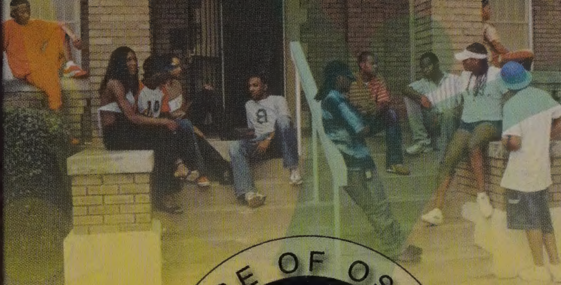
I initially returned to therapy because while at work one day I had a panic attack. I was sitting at my desk reading my email when all of a sudden my chest began to tighten and I could not catch my breath. I calmly got up and drove myself to the emergency room only to find out that I was having a panic attack. They gave me a sedative and sent me home. What was so confusing to me about this episode was that in the past when I have had panic attacks it was usually the result of me trying to control something that I had no way of controlling. For instance, the last really bad attack happened when I was in London and my flight home was delayed 7 hours and I really needed to get home. But this time there nothing that I was trying to control. Again, I was just sitting at my desk. What I have discovered through my sessions is that I am angry about so many things in the world, with my relationships, in my life in general and because I don't release the anger it has built up inside me and comes out the best way it can. This particular time it was in the form of a panic attack. When I think about it in retrospect, my anger has shown up at work, in my car, with my friends, even here in my articles. The slightest thing can/will piss me off to the tenth degree. While most people can casually dismiss it and move on, I get up on my soapbox and rant and rave and carry this anger around with me like some sort of fashion accessory. I even play out scenarios when I am alone. Reenacting situations that made me angry all over again. Never letting go. Anger is tricky though because it is not a real emotion. It is a mask for hurt or fear. And if I don't deal with the hurt or fear I can never get rid of the anger.

One of the several things that my therapist suggested that I do to release my anger is a journal. I have written in journals for years but this task was more specific.

I had to compile a list of everything that makes me angry. Here is some of my list:

- ■ I am angry because I make poor decisions for my life.
- ■ I am angry because everyone in the world seems selfish and inconsiderate.
- ■ I am angry because even though everyone seems selfish and inconsiderate they are politically correct enough to make you think they aren't.
- ■ I am angry because I try to be considerate and respectful of the world but I don't get the same back.
- ■ I am angry because I want to be happy but cannot seem to be.
- ■ I am angry because I cannot trust.
- ■ I am angry because I have pushed a lot of good decent people away that I was afraid were going to hurt me.
- ■ I am angry because my optimism about life and love is disappearing.
- ■ I am angry because my parents are the smartest people that I know but they are so judgmental and hypocritical and they cannot see it.
- ■ I am angry because I think that I am quickly becoming exactly like them.
- ■ I am angry because there are things in my life that I want to do yet I feel stuck.
- ■ I am angry because I go out on dates and think that we are having a good time and then I never hear from them again.
- ■ I am angry because all of my friends are attractive, smart, incredible people yet most of them are single.
- ■ I am angry because no matter how hard I keep trying to change, I don't think that I do.

This is just a sample of my list. The complete list is about 4 pages long and growing. This anger has a grip on me so tight that it is affecting my health. My blood pressure is elevated, at times I can't sleep and of course there are my panic attacks. I am trying to work through this but most of the time it seems so much bigger than me that I don't know that I can. All I can say right now is that I am trying to get through this. There is a song on Brandy's new album that sums up how I have been feeling lately. The words are, "Should anybody ask for me tell them I be right back in a real short time. It's just that I've lost my mind and I gotta find it. Once I hop on my train of thought I'll get back here pronto to collect myself. There's nothing you can do to help."



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BAREBACKER SEEKS LOVE FINDS TROUBLE

I'd been living in New York City for the past year jerking my life away. Literally: I must have slept with several hundred guys in the previous year, searching in each of them for some fulfillment, withdrawing into a world of 24 hour, instantly available, serial smut on the Web. I felt lonely and depressed and my doctor prescribed an anti-depressant in a well-intentioned attempt to medicate me out of my inertia. However, his best efforts failed -- dismally.

It was during this bout with depression that I became interested in receptive anal sex. Getting poked up the butt -- with anything, let alone a fully engorged, erect penis -- was never high on my list of things to do. But recently... I'd had a change of heart: like coleslaw or sushi, how do you know you don't like something unless you try it?

With this in mind, I made a date with Rick, a guy I met online and chatted with for over nine months before hooking up.

Rick is about as movie star gorgeous as any man I have ever known. There's something overwhelmingly persuasive about a man as attractive as him. It wasn't more than 15 minutes until we were in bed together and he was fucking me. Thinking back, I can't remember either of us ever mentioning condoms but I had told him ages ago that, "I [was] negative and I intend[ed] to stay that way".

Things progressed fairly rapidly from that point on -- we saw each other often, with escalating frequency. It wasn't long before sex dates had become traditional dates, incorporating walks in the park, dinners and sleep-overs. Nevertheless, even as romance blossomed, the primary focus was an incredible sexual attraction. We were irresistibly drawn to each other.

Losing myself in our connection, I indulged my fantasy of a devoted, loving relationship, one that embraces unsafe sex between HIV-negative partners as a physical manifestation of our intense emotional bond. I did NOT want to convert: I'm not a bug-chaser. But I had an erotic notion of semen in this context to the point that ingesting it -- the whole act of consuming and incorporating it -- became an irresistible impulse. And we acted on that impulse. The only

problem? We removed condoms from our equation before discussing HIV status or testing.

Instead of drawing us closer, it felt like our moment of unparalleled intimacy only drove us apart, as a dark cloud descended over our amorous tranquility. Suddenly, Rick wanted us both to test for HIV, "if we're going to do that kind of thing."

Which was fine by me, I suppose, as he had to be negative -- after all, I'd told him that I was and he'd been fucking me raw for weeks at this point. (I mean, he HAS to be negative, right?) I awaited the results with a familiar sense of undulating panic: of course I'm negative; oh my God, what about the time that...; everything's fine; dear Lord, I'm dying -- I can feel it growing inside me!

I got the all clear. Negative, undetectable viral load: the dream survives -- I think. Elated, I left word on Rick's cell phone, hoping he'd return my call shortly with equally wonderful news. And so I waited. And waited.

Finally, later in the afternoon, he rang to report his result. He was positive.

He sounded devastated as he told me that he'd spent the past few hours alone in a café, debating treatment options and pondering his fate, wracked with self- recriminations and doubt. I wanted to drop everything to be with him, but he wouldn't have it. He told me that I should leave him ("I'm no good for you"), that he'd kill himself if I were hurt (Oh my God, that's right: what about me?).

I went straight to my doctor to report Rick's test result. He crossed his eyes, breathed a deep sigh and advised me to immediately commence triple-combination Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP). However, he cautioned me that 10 days had past since Rick came inside me, well outside the 24-hour window within which PEP is believed to be effective.

I'm told the adverse side effects of HIV meds improve dramatically after the first four to six weeks. I wouldn't know, since PEP "only" lasts for one month -- an extremely expensive month if you don't have health insurance or you don't want your insurer to know about it. Within minutes of taking the first of so many hundreds of pills, every waking hour of that month was unbearably nightmarish. Apart from the chronic diarrhea and gassy bloating, my skin constantly felt like it was on fire and I was always exhausted.

Later that first night, tired and alone -- feeling abandoned in my misery -- I tried calling Rick to find out how he was coping and to update him on my news. But his phone was switched off and I was directed -- repeatedly -- straight to his voice-mail: "Call me -- please!" Waiting in vain by the phone, I crawled into bed that first Friday night and cried myself to sleep, trying to come to terms with my responsibility for my role in all of this.

It didn't help that my doctor was adamant that he speak with Rick's doctor immediately in order to better address my treatment -- something to do with geno-/phenotypes.

The following afternoon, Rick finally rang back -- "Oh my God, you sound so sad -- what's wrong?" (What's wrong?)

He assured me that everything was OK, he'd been meditating and had decided to come back to the city on Sunday -- he'd meet me at the pier dance (Gay Pride -- how intimate!). We ended up back together and I felt as if love would see us through this horror. We comforted each other as we settled into our respective drug regimens, gently trying to adjust to our new circumstances. Slowly the old rhythms returned and we resumed an approximation of our prior existence.

A few weeks later, I came across some of his medication bottles. The prescriptions had been filled a full week before we even tested, about the time he ejaculated inside me.

When I confronted him. He told me the truth. He'd known that he was positive for eight months. He just didn't know how to tell me. And he'd assumed that I had to be positive too if I let him fuck me raw -- and cum inside me. He didn't want to hurt anyone, least of all me, he said. He really did love me and was mortified by what he had done, he added. Would I ever forgive him?

I did, but things would never be the same again.

The lesson I learned is this: people, even good people, and those who say they love you, sometimes lie about really important things. Sometimes the lies are by omission and sometimes they're outright, bold-faced lies. And sometimes we even lie to ourselves.

When it comes to HIV-status and disclosure, by the time you finally get to the truth, you may have already put yourself or your loved ones at grave risk. Assumptions should never be made about the HIV status of your sexual partners. However dreamlike sex may feel, serious health risks and responsibilities accompany it.

ASK Bianca

Hey Ladies... and gentlemen,
Well, if you are reading this, it is hello gyrl. It is so nice to be back and what a beautiful summer this has been. Your girl has been enjoying the beach immensely and wishes this kind of weather would last forever. Last week, I wore my Chanel piece to the beach. The silver one with the white stripe going across the front and the boys followed me all over the shore. The gagger, was when I took them off and the men saw my newly designed voluptuousness. The beaches of North Miami will never be the same again.

Well, I am getting ready to go to Atlanta, to see some girlfriends of mine, compete in the Miss Liberty 2004 pageant, as well as catch some of the cuties on display at the Balenciaga/Givenchy Ball. I have done enough nipping and tucking and Hotlanta will not be ready for me. Any hoo, this column is not about me. For real, it is about you lost souls who need my motherly advice despite the fact that I have no maternal instincts. So, before you start turning green with envy, here is this month's advice from the ever devastating, always beautiful bitch.
Miss Bianca Buchanan.

Dear Bianca,

I recently went to a nightclub as the guest of the bar-back and was told that he no longer works there. Here I was, in Prada and hot pink only to be told by some troll, at the door I would have to pay. I have not paid to go to a club in over 10 years and I am not about to start. So I clicked my heels twice and went back to my friends waiting to see if we were getting in for free. Should I be upset or am I over reacting? Plus the damn bar-back has not called me, to tell me he no longer works there. I am mad as hell, but more embarrassed than anything, because the girl who told me I had to pay, is a bitch I used to just swing by as I yell am on the list.
1st time off the list in New York

Dear 1st time off the list,
Wonders never cease. You were on the bar-backs guest list? Whatever happened to the DJ's guest list? When did bar-backs start having guest lists? My, how time has changed? I did some research and this is what I learned. A bar-back is usually a handsome, straight acting boy who services bartenders at the club. He normally has many friends who he sneaks into the back door but rarely is he given the use of a formal guest list. You were lucky your bar-boy had it good and had a list. My advice to you next time girl, is to aim higher. Try dating the door girl, or the owner or the DJ. They are more likely to keep their jobs and hence keep you on the list. As for the boy not calling, what makes you think he still has his metro. Maybe you should get a nose job or your teeth fixed and you will be on the A-list and wont need a bar-back to get you into any club. You stay stunned as I remain stunning.
Bianca

Dear Bianca,

I just found out that my boyfriend is not really my boyfriend, but that he is in a long term relationship with one of my co-workers over here at the exchange. I am quite annoyed and bothered because I was bragging to this bitch about how big my mans piece is, how good he uses it and the passion and positions we make love in. I went on to tell her something he really likes to do which is kinda weird and she said to me, "what is your man's name". I told her Alyn at which point she literally gagged. Then she said to me, "do you have a picture", and I went into my wallet. This bitch went into her purse and pulled out the same picture. When I woke up she was fanning me with her address book. Needless to say I left the man but she is still with him claiming the dick has been hers for years and never was mine. I am tempted to call him; cuz he had some real talent in the sack plus the dick is just like I like them, big. What should I do?
Angel in Miami

MAIL

Bianca is interested in helping you solve some of the greater mysteries of life. Write her at Clikque Magazine,
1001 North Federal HWY, Suite 365, Hallandale, FL 33009
Or email her C/O Clikque1@aol.com

Dear Angel in Hell.. I mean Miami. Sorry to hear about your tragedy because losing good dick is a travesty. My suggestion is that like a white chick you should throw a BF. That is a Bitch Fit. It is the most fetch thing to do these days. In your most Valley girl twang you call that girl and give her a piece of your mind. Then go over to her house and deliver the BF letter you wrote to her boyfriend. Go back home and wait for his call. If that does not work, in 24 hours throw another bitch fit. Go ahead, you throw a BF, as I remain beautiful.
Bianca

Dear Bianca,

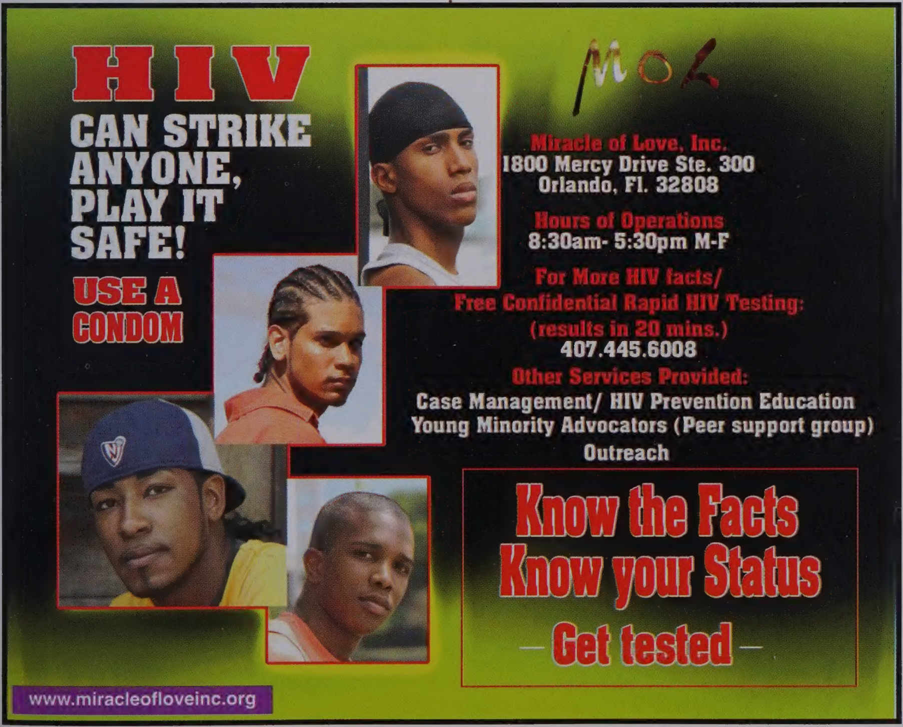
I met my boyfriend in early May. We started dating on May 23rd. He bought a house and wants me to move in with him on August 15th. Do you think it is too early for me to move in with him? I really love this man and the sex is incredible and gets better every time. Just when I think it can get no better than this he pulls another stunt. Should I move in with him or not?
Douglas, Atlanta GA

Dear Douglas,
According to the infamous they, it is too early to move in with him. They say, three months is way too short a time to know if you want to live together. However, my Judy Gretchen, says she went home with a man one night from The Sound Factory Bar (NYC), in 1994 and never went back home, but to get her stuff. That was 10 years ago and today that bitch is still driving that man's 335I BMW. She lies and says it is hers but I know better. All this to say, how soon you should move in is really up to the two of you.
Good luck girl.
Bianca

Dear Bianca,

Do you think I am cute enough to walk face at a ball? Unattached, but ready to grace the runway.

Dear Unattached,
The publisher of this rag said you were too facially challenged, for us to print your picture here. So that, is one vote against your walking face. Then I contacted the Muglers who said I must have been joking. The Balenciagas said, No mam, and even the sweet girls over at Givenchy said can she vogue?
My advice to you is to call Dr. Knott and set up an appointment for a rhino plasti, a jaw line rearrangement, a complete teeth makeover and then go see the skin people at The Dermatology Boutique. Then and only then should you attempt to walk face.
Until you heal, I remain the ever stunning, Bianca.



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onthe SCENE

Scenes From Angel Infinity & DJ MIIK's
Get That Bitch II Mini Ball @ EXIT in Hollywood, Fl

Angel get a 10 for this FABULOUS Mini-Ball @ EXIT

Florida's butch realness as she welcomes SHAQ To Miami

Serving Headwear at the Infiniti function.

The category was so hot we had to print this picture too.

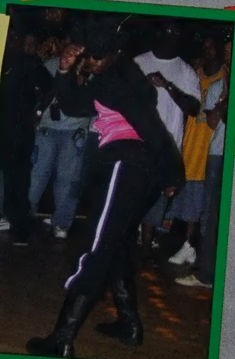
I have the receipts somewhere, I don't know where, but I bought it!

Clikque's Kennedy Davenport, laying it out for the kids.

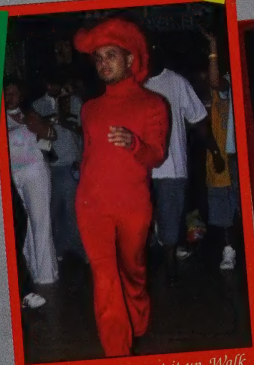
No bags under my eyes, so all y'all who can't take me, just suffa.

This is cada. Miami's new Face. Touch this skin honey. Touch all of it.

nt to a ball, snatch a trophy, now everyone wants to know me.



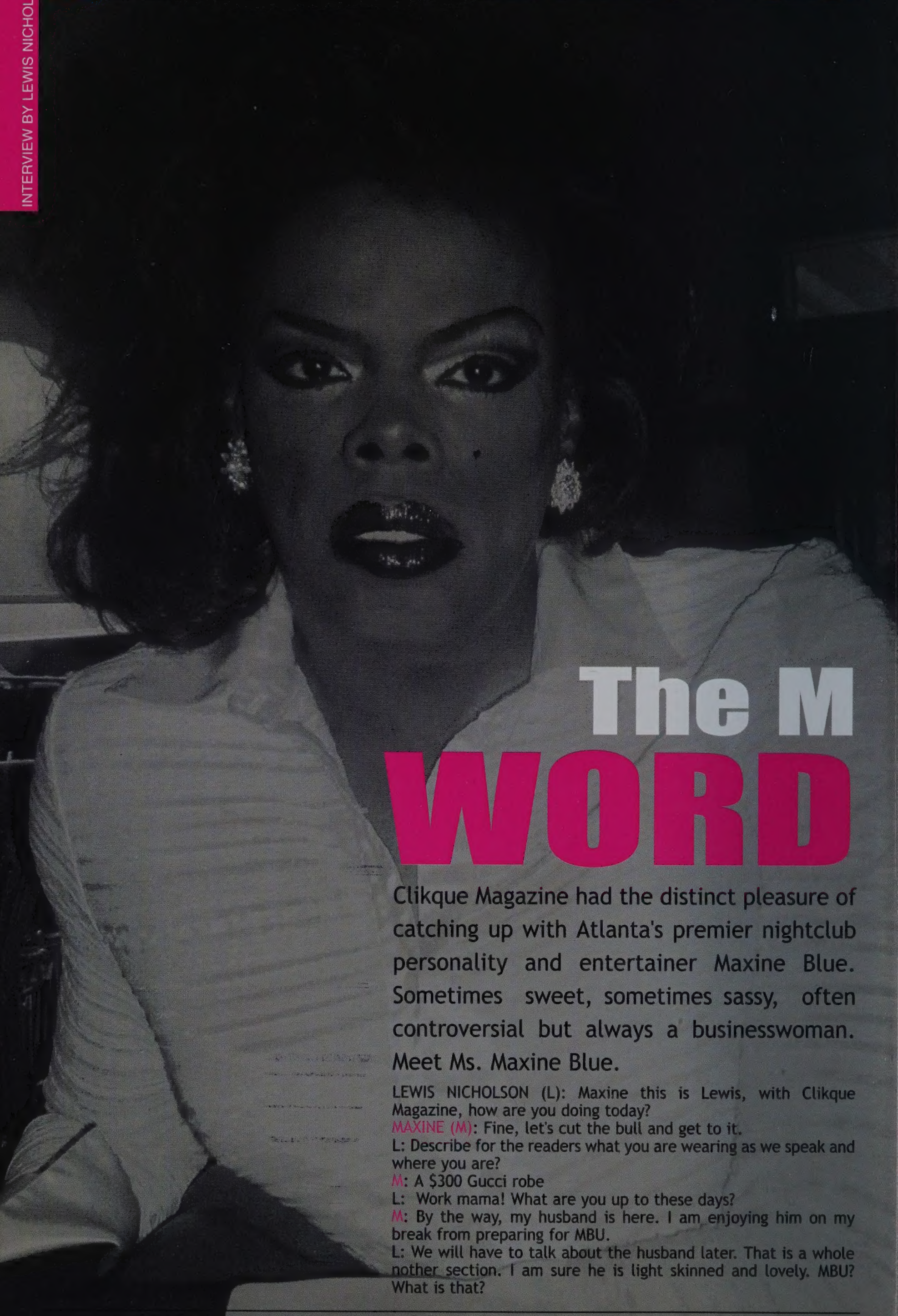
Foot and Eyewear. Was this a $1000 piece?



Eating , eating, eat it up. Walk the runway mamma!

3003, now strike that ovah pose for me.

INTERVIEW BY LEWIS NICHOLSON



The M WORD

Clikque Magazine had the distinct pleasure of catching up with Atlanta's premier nightclub personality and entertainer Maxine Blue. Sometimes sweet, sometimes sassy, often controversial but always a businesswoman. Meet Ms. Maxine Blue.

LEWIS NICHOLSON (L): Maxine this is Lewis, with Clikque Magazine, how are you doing today?
MAXINE (M): Fine, let's cut the bull and get to it.
L: Describe for the readers what you are wearing as we speak and where you are?
M: A $300 Gucci robe
L: Work mama! What are you up to these days?
M: By the way, my husband is here. I am enjoying him on my break from preparing for MBU.
L: We will have to talk about the husband later. That is a whole nother section. I am sure he is light skinned and lovely. MBU? What is that?

LADY MAXINE BLUE

ATLANTA'S # 1 MOVER & SHAKER

M: WELL YOU GOT THAT RIGHT about my light and lovely husband. MBU is Miss Black Universe.

L: No! Not Black Universe, you are going back to that?

M: That's right, the bitch is back, I figured, I do one more, so it will end where it all began.

L: You have to be kidding, do you think you can actually be the next Miss Black Universe?

M: I don't have time to kid, because time is money. Oh, I will be the next.

L: What will be different this time around than the last time you ran?

M: The teeth, the look, the brain, and the money. No longer am I a young girl that don't know shit.

L: The teeth? You got falsies, a whole plate or did you get the good shit?

M: Thanks to the fans, and the people, who go to the clubs, I got the good shit I mean implants some get tits, I got teeth.

L: You better work. Universe will not be ready for you if you get a gown to go along with the new look.

M:I am getting it from china, you know they don't play ova there.

L: They don't, but Maxine Blue has played with the kids before in some less than stellar gowns.

M: Well I guess we will just have to wait and see, wont we?

L: You have always had the talent, the Q& A, the walk, so now with the gown and new look, I feel sorry for the other girls who had their eyes on the prize.

M: Well, we all do our best, so it's whoever is hot that night, that's what a pageant is all about.

L: Yes it is. What is the difference between Maxine Blue of the Bachelors Mill as opposed to Maxine Blue of Atlanta, GA?

M: There's nothing different, I have not changed, as others do, except I now have fewer real friends.

L: Before we get off the subject of pageantry, a friend of mine asked me to find out how you really felt about the year, I think it was 1999, when you won Interview, Presentation and Q & A at Miss Liberty but was named 4th runner - up?

M: By not winning there were no expectations put on me, so it was fine, however, I won't be competing in that system anymore. I wish them the best of luck.

L: why wouldn't you do Liberty again? But Universe?

M: I don't think I'm what they are looking for, SOME ONE WHO IS DRIVEN TO REACH THE TOP and Liberty does not want that? I think MBU can help me, and I can help them. It's a business you know. I m sure they do but, as always they under- estimated Maxine, She's a winner.

L: Is it true that you got your start at a fashion show in Pyontek, Korea, while serving in the armed forces?

M: No it's not true, I got my start when I was ten in MILWAUKEE.

L: Ten huh? Do tell us about that?

M: You see, my father was very strict, so my mother always told us to pay him no attention, and to go for the gold. No matter what happened, she would say at least you tried.

L: Mom sounds like a wise woman. So what was your first experience on a stage like?

M: A queen must spread her wings and fly.

L: Were you aware that you were going to be a star when you burned the runway in Korea?

M: It was a mess, I fell on the runway, everyone laughed but then I knew what my true calling was; COMEDY. Oh yes, Rodney and me were the queens of the post. Mother Nature and Mother Superior, guess which one I was.

L: You had to be superior.

M: You got it.

L: Rodney ... well I can't put Rodney's business out there like that, but you had to be Superior. Now that you are pretty much at the top how has your life changed.

M: Well my dad came to see my show at The Metro, and told me he was proud of me and you know what? That was the best thing I ever got or heard from anyone. And by the way, I don't think I am at the top yet. I'm still living from paycheck to pay check.

L: Must be a lot of living you are doing, for it to be paycheck to paycheck. Your dad saw you in drag? That is comforting? What made you decide to go into promotions.

M: I had no choice, Jerry from Colours fired me because he wanted to control me, so it was go into promotions or go home. (I mean back to DC).

L: What has been your most rewarding experience as a promoter?

M: Being able to help those who have helped me.

L: What do you think is responsible for your success and is there anyone in the business you admire or look up to?

M: Hard work. The people are as follows
TIM JONES, NIESHA, DOMINIQUE, TRAVIS AND ROME
However now I have a whole new group of people. The young kids of Atlanta. Eric, Steve, Alley Cat and Sherry

L: Alley Cat? lol

M: My gay child, she is the current Miss Bachelor's Mill and always by my side.

L: When you decide to do a party, how do you know

MAXINE CONTINUES ON PAGE 68

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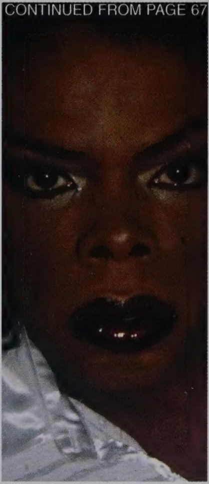


whether or not people are going to support it?

M: I don't, I just keep trying and hopefully if you build it they will come

M: Oh yeah I cant forget my Latin kids, they got me through some really hard times. Thanks Alex and Alexis.

L: Which of your promotion ventures are you most proud of?

M: My Latin night at the chaparral, they come every week and don't judge, or get jealous, they just support.

L: How does that make you feel that it is not your own that has supported you most?

M: They support too, but you know how we are.

L: How do you think we can change that in the black gay community?

M: It's been inbred from slavery, it was the only way to keep us down, divide and concur. I think we can change it by voting.

L: Speaking of voting, you were voted off at Traxx American Idol style, did they ever let you back into Traxx?

M: Oh yeah, they finally figured out I wasn't the problem, you see if they would have given me a job, I would be helping them.

L: Is it true that Atlanta has changed and that Traxx is no longer the club to be at?

M: I guess that is a matter of choice, if you want to support gay people you go to Traxx, if you want to support straight people, you go to the other place on Spring street. I go to traxx on Monday, to support the girls.

L: What is your relationship like with the folks over at 708?

M: For me personally its good, however I hear its bad for others.

L: Others like whom?

M: Well they use to let employees from all clubs get in free, however since the new folks have taken over, they no longer look out for the lowly employees of other clubs, only the big bosses (THANK GOD I'M ONE OF THE BIG BOSSES. See that's what I mean when I say slave mentality, and not taking care of one another.

L: I heard you were once the man being grabbed on, by a wife who went by the name of Mrs. Phillip. How true is that?

M: What? Please explain

L: The rumor mill has it, that you were once married to a real woman.

M: Yes I was, but I met a truck driver and the rest is history.

L: Do you have any kids and if so which on is your favorite?

M: I have about 15, Alley Cat is the favorite, then Miss Anthony.

L: Whatever happened to the Cancun Canteen?

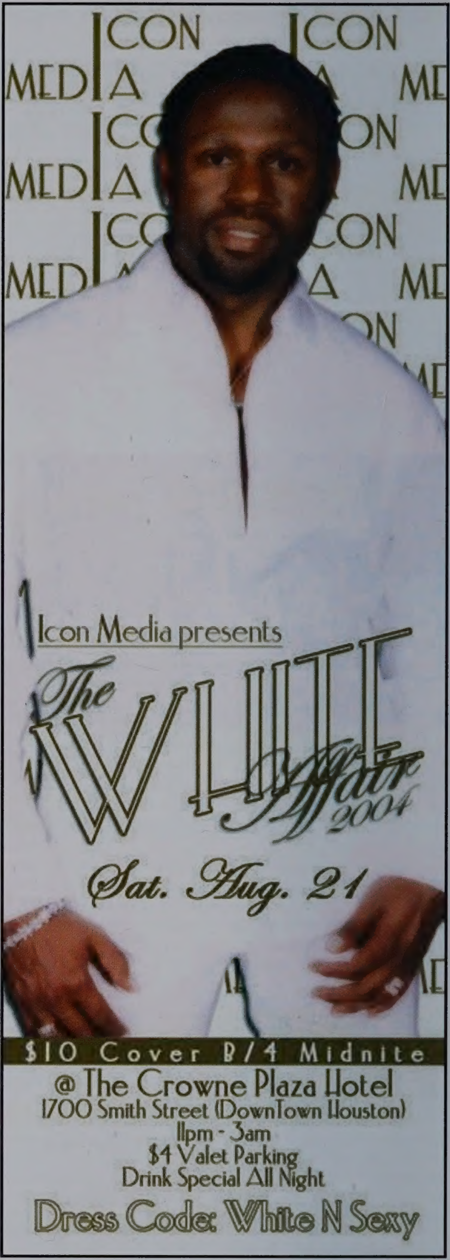
M: Well Dominique and Mario are here and we are taking care of some things so we will have to continue this later. By the way thanks for sending that fine Eli to take my picture I think he is hot. I will call you back in about and hour when we get done

L: On more thing before you go. What is your given name and where did Maxine Blue come from?

M: My given name is Philip Fairchild. Maxine comes from En Vogue, and the last name comes from Bijion Blue my first husband

L: Really Bijon Blue? I never would have guessed! Thanks for chatting with me and have a great day.

With that Maxine ran off to take care of business. As you can see, Maxine Blue is a multifaceted businesswoman and entertainer currently residing in Atlanta. She is sharp and witty, with an acidic tongue, but those who know her, say to really know her is to love her.



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Written By Lisa Knicherson

CLIKASCOPE

GETTING YOUR MONTH OFF TO A GREAT START

ARIES

The world may have done you wrong over the last year or so, but they are ready to right those wrongs. Open your arms and allow them to. Hold your hands out and receive. This month wear a hairdo on which the tiara will fit nicely as someone is ready to declare you queen. And the winner is.... You girl!

TAURUS

Normally you are a very strong willed girl, but lately you have been slacking off. Gain some control of your life and resume being the dynamic spectacle that you once were. You are a goddess so sit back and let the kids worship. Yes girl, you are so absolutely fetch.

GEMINI

The evil twin is on the lurk. Slap that bitch twice so that she will go back into hiding. Let the good sister out and all the positive things in life that you desire will be yours. Lately you have been feeling like you made some bad choices but have no fear. Everything is about to fall into place just the way you want it.

CANCER

Sugar listen, You are smart, talented and funny and even straight folks think you are way cool. Not that you really care what they think anyway. Now that the depression is over it is time for you to start making amends. Do something special for your friends , like throw them a big welcome back to your world party. Your friends never stopped thinking of you as a star so go ahead and start acting like the diva you have always been.

LEO

Good golly miss molly. You are embarking upon new adventures all of which are bound to take you places. Making money and finding love is a primary goal of yours and I am pleased to say that both are on the way. Your new love interest is the one for you. He/she is ready and willing to give you all the love and attention you deserve. Hold your head up as life could actually be worse. This summer enjoy every moment as if it was your last.

VIRGO

Finally, the project you started a long long time ago is almost done. The sense of accomplishment you will feel once it is over will make you extremely happy. Stop procrastinating and get it over with. You have other fish to fry and you could be on the horizons of becoming a major force to reckon with in your field. You have a heart of gold but you can be a tad bit controlling at times. Lighten up and live.

LIBRA

You take the good , you take the bad, you take them both at once you are taking a Libra. You are a bag of conflicting ammunition. Explosive yet calm. Caring yet bitchy. What on earth are we supposed to do with you guys? Well this month we ask that you either be an all out bitch or an all out Mother Theressa. Either way, the world will be a better place for it, because you are the best at whatever you chose to do.

SCORPIO

Everyone wants to be around you. Everyone wants to be in you or just be you. Let your light so shine that men can adore you. You enjoy the limelight and this is your turn to shine. You are a glammapuss so pull out the couture. Everything you attempt this month will be a success, so try something daring and outright boldface.

SAGITTARIUS

Sagittarius - Your long lost love is trying to get in touch with you. He never stopped loving you so when he finally gets in contact with you please allow him to re-enter your life. It will be as though he never left. The sex will be incredible and you will be made to feel like the woman that you are and honey you are all woman. W-O-M-A-N!

CAPRICORN

Capricorn - Gretchen, you betta work! Yes mam. You own the world and everything is yours. Fionna got Shrek and you will get Morris if that is what you desire. Besides, your beauty will be rejuvenated and you will experience much attention from the kids. As the summer winds down you will be heating up as you take centre stage in the drama called your life. Just make sure you also take on the starring role. Too often you allow others to play the lead role in a drama written just for you.

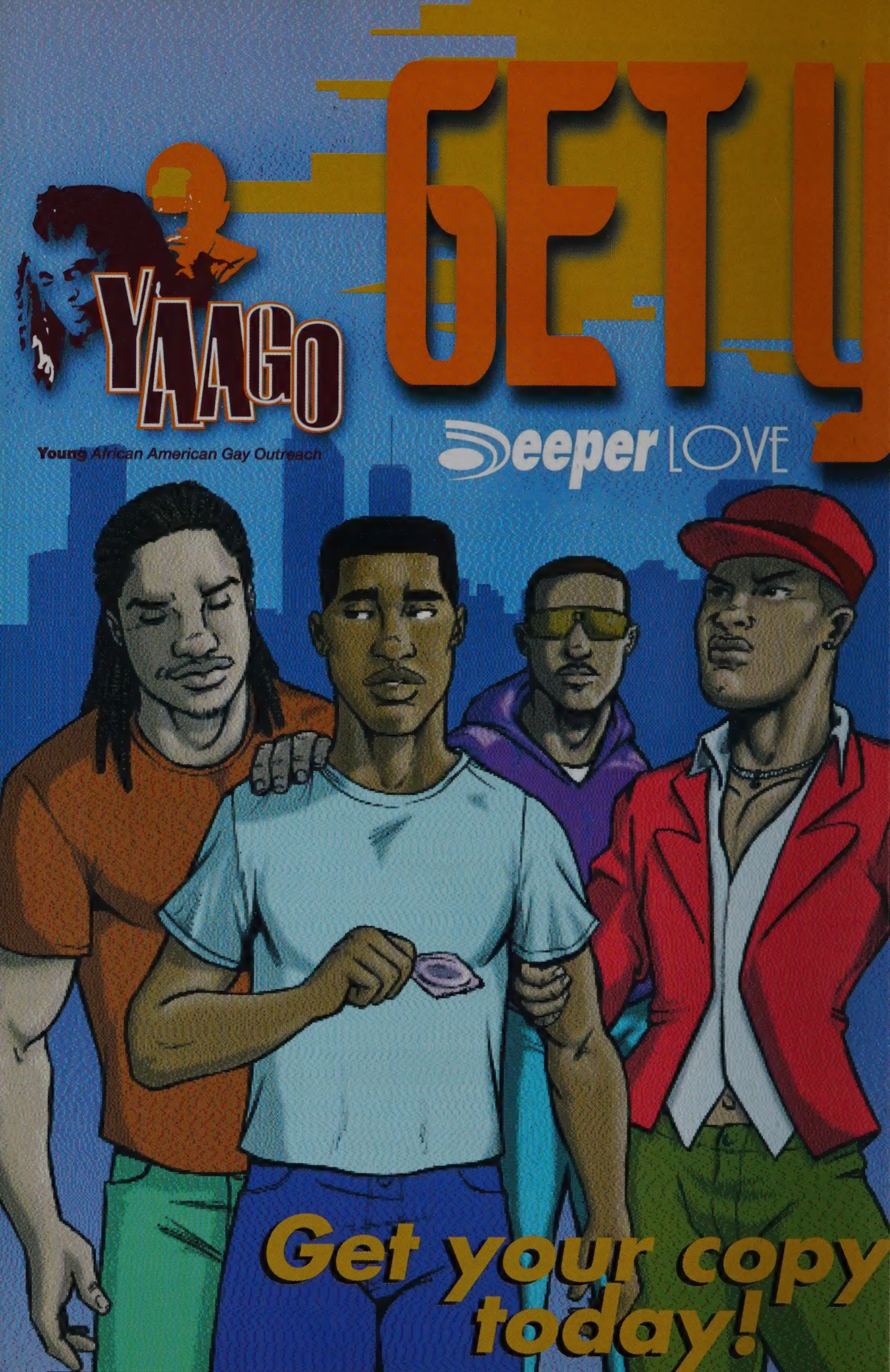
AQUARIUS

Aquarius- Stop doubting if the man is right for you. The two of you are cosmically,perfectly in tune with each other. Enjoy the remaining days of summer with him. Do all you ever dreamed of doing. Sweetie, this is your turn, take it.

PISCES

Pisces - The Lord is my shepard, I see what I want! And baby it is you. Most Pisceans are experiencing the full effect of the laws of attraction this summer. Most people find you irristible, so if you are single glance about you because he is only an arms length away. Already hitched? Ok then , just be happy.

CHECK US OUT ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB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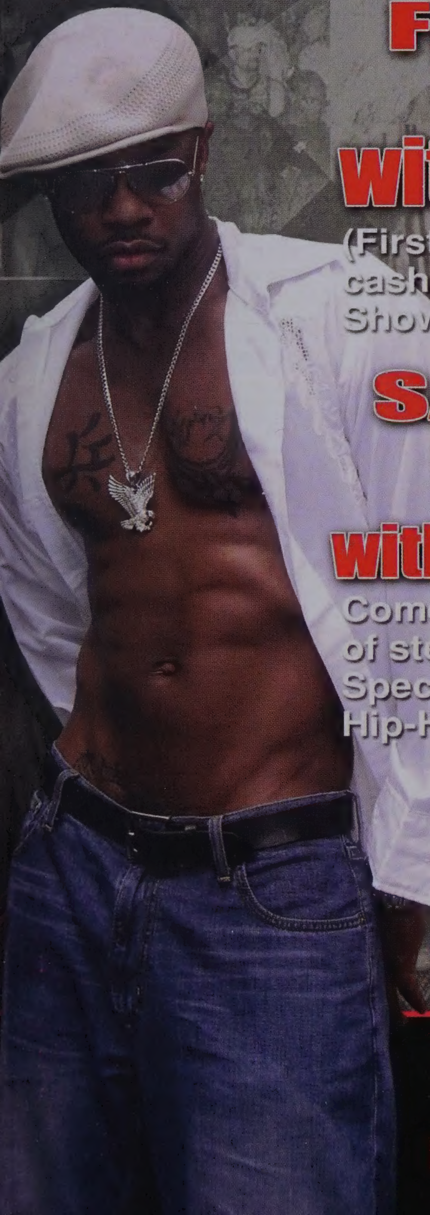

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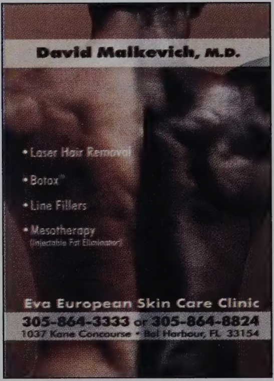
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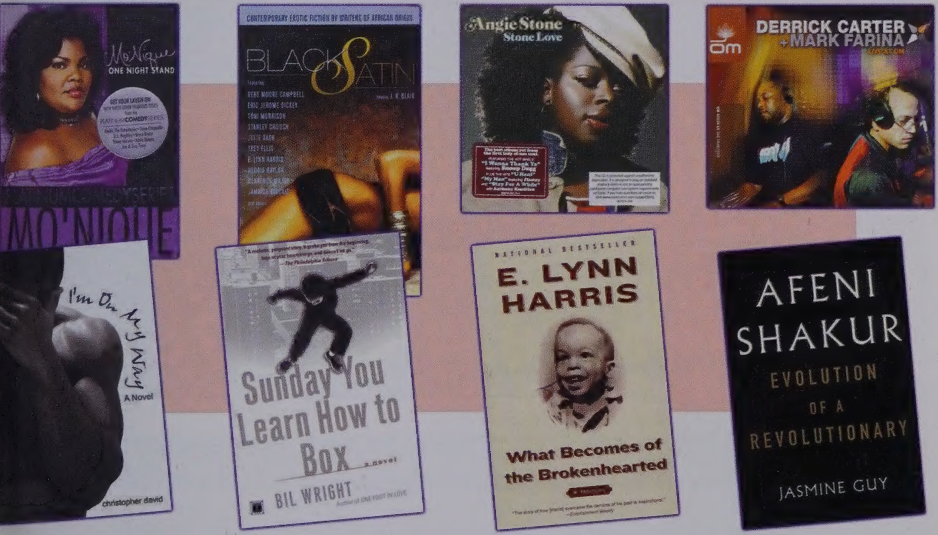
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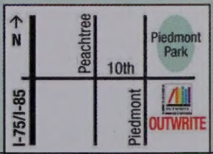
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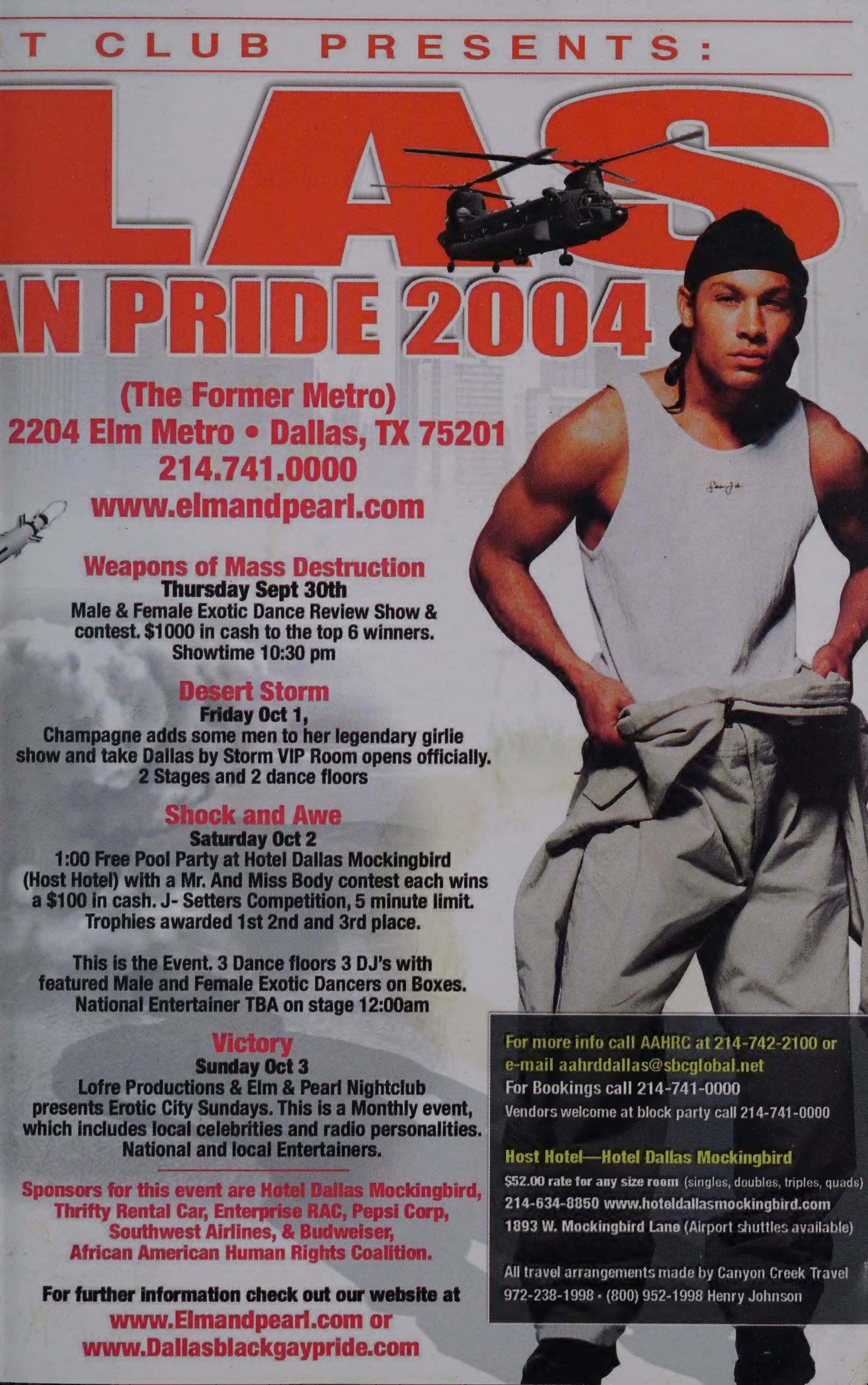

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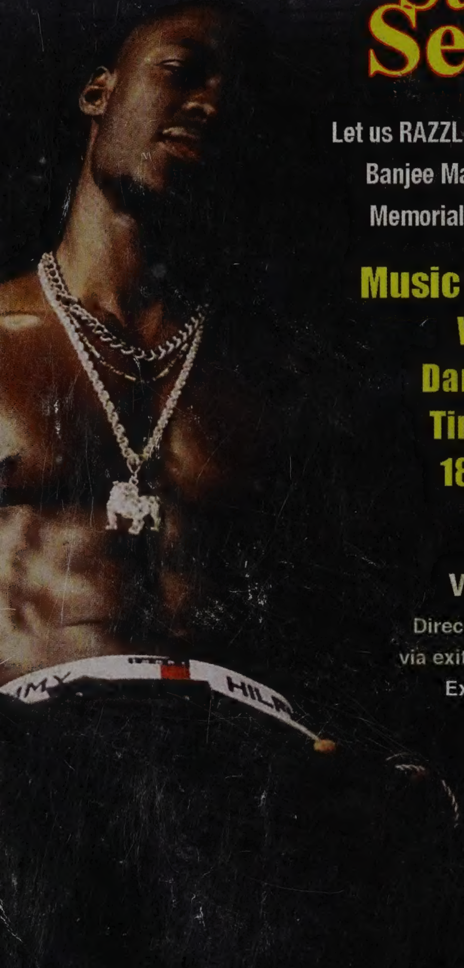

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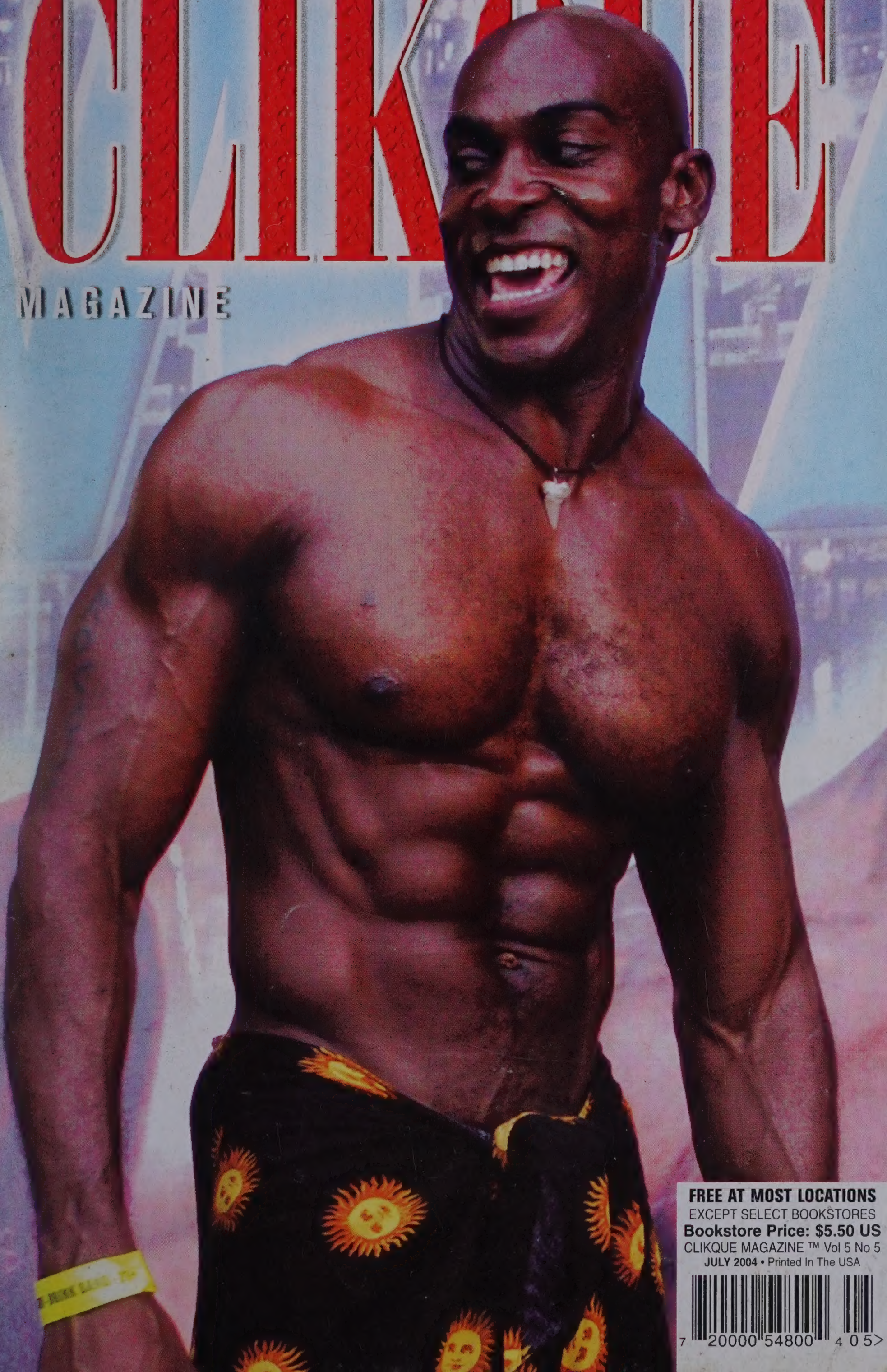

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Clikque MAGAZINE

EDITORIAL

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF DWIGHT POWELL

Second Chances

Rarely, are we given a second chance to make a good "first impression". Just recently, after hosting thousands of people from around the country at Sizzle 2004 in Miami, I realized that I was granted just that. A second chance.

You are reading, what is now our fifth consecutive issue since returning from a two-year hiatus. You have welcomed us back into your hearts and for that I am very appreciative. I was going to write about a different topic in this issue, until I read an article written by Lewis Nicholson (on page 8) in which he shared with us very personal feelings and experiences. After reading that article, I realized that he and I had experienced some rather similar turn of events in our lives over the past few years. Unlike him, I didn't have a complete breakdown, but my spirit, drive, energy, and always positive outlook was at it's all time lowest.

In mid 2001, Clikque Magazine was at the top of its game. We were the nation's number one black gay publication. We sponsored the hottest events and had managed to acquire an extremely favorable reputation. In the blink of an eye, I allowed tons of negative energies to change all that. Without getting too personal, since I often keep a lot in, I would just say that "S.A.D." and bad relationships got the best of me.

By November of 2001, I had lost most of what I had worked so hard to attain at Clikque Magazine, and Banjee Magazines. I left Hotlanta and took refuge in the Sunshine State, in an attempt to find myself.

Now, two and a half years later, Clikque Magazine is again atop of the black gay media market, Banjee Magazine is back in it's previous role as America's leading erotic male publication. And Sizzle Miami has proven to be one of America's must experience events.

None of this came easily, I have learned a lot over the years. Sometimes we need to hit rock bottom to really appreciate what we have and to recognize who our true friends are. People often say, that we should never burn bridges, because they may need to be traveled again in the future.

For the most part, I do agree with that statement. However, while we should not burn those bridges, we must sever ties with some of the people and things we met across those bridges. We must learn to say enough, when we have had enough.

And the rejuvenated, more positive me is doing just that. Thank you black gay America for giving me that second chance.

Dwight Powell

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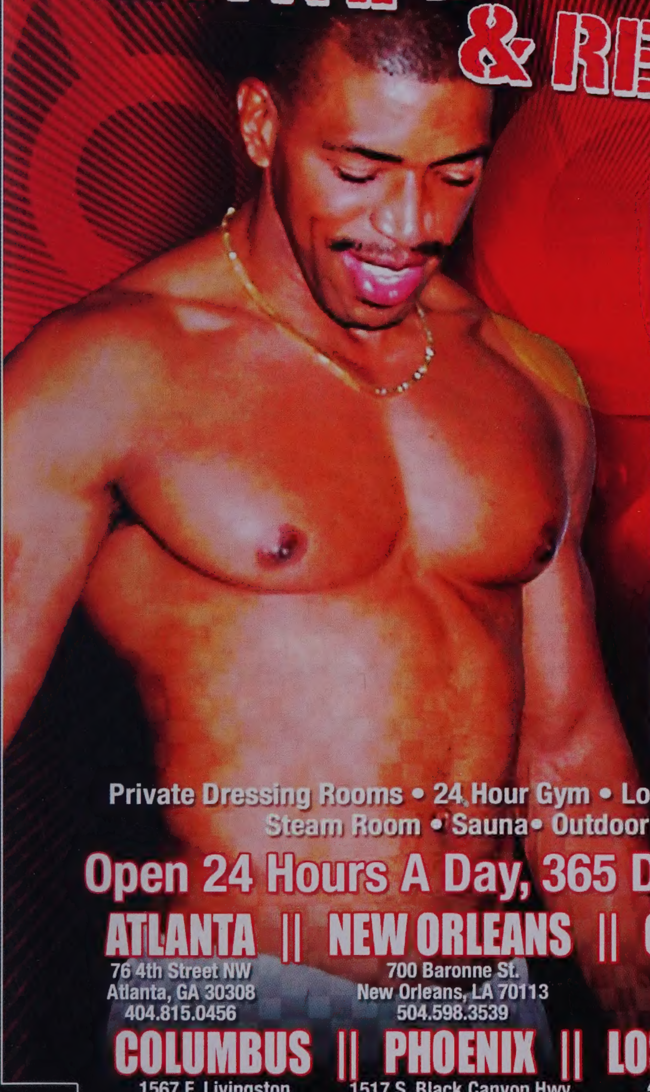

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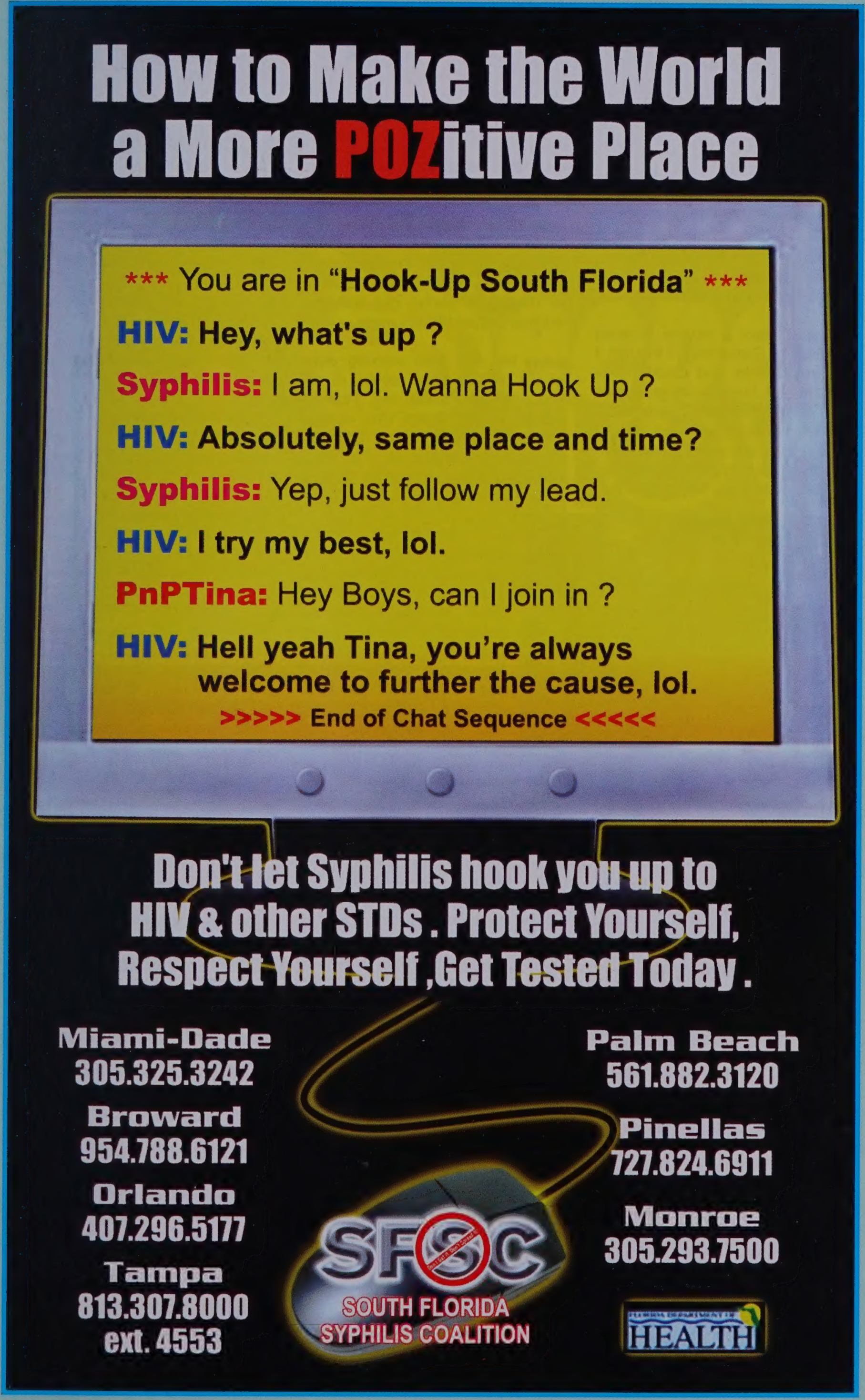

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>>>>> End of Chat Sequence <<<<<

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Beyond Words

By Lewis J. Nicholson

Sometimes in our lives we encounter unexpected events that change the course of said lives forever. These are often positive occurrences but in many instances they have a negative impact on our existence.

Last year I got a severe dose of depression. Something, I thought I was immune to and could never comprehend. I used to laugh at girls who claimed they were depressed. I would think to myself, just go get some dick or ass and that will solve everything. But I got a true wake up call and today I am fully aware that depression is real not mild, or imagined but very real.

The interesting thing about it is that we do not recognize depression until it has consumed us and we are at the point of almost no return.

Last August, I lost my mentor and very close friend. During our five year friendship he taught me many things that I continue to live by today. I knew he was dying but neither he nor I wanted to accept that and up to the point of his death, we never discussed it. One thing is for sure though, that after I eulogized him in a glowing ceremony I tried to go on with my life like his death was just another daily event.

Two weeks later I competed in the Mr. Continental contest and it was on final night that I realized that I needed my friend Logan Holt and that I had not mourned him enough. I was in denial and it all came upon me during the talent segment of the final night competition.

I returned home and quit my job at the night-club (The Palace) my friend owned where I was also a manager. Going into the Palace had become very stressful as I expected to receive a phone call with yet another request from Logan.

So, I left and tried working elsewhere. Within three weeks of my leaving The Palace, my Fashion Editor, Justice Felani who worked with me on Glitter and Glamma Magazines decided he had had enough of this world and he too was leaving.

I remember Andre Givenchy doing a memorial for Justice at the mini ball that Wednesday night and there is little I want to remember after that. During the weeks that followed I had no desire to live. I could not get out of bed except to go to the Lions Den where I was a Bartender on Sundays. I put on my Sunday face and very few knew that I was just a functioning depressed person. I lost my car to the repo-man even though my brother was willing to make the payments. I was late on every bill even when I had the money. I was lonely and alone. When you have spent the last five years having lunch, working and promoting events with someone their leaving creates an unimaginable void.

Logan used to remind me daily how promiscuous we were as gay men and after a while my friend Robert and I would refer to each other as promiscuous. I miss those days.
Near the end of last year my family who insisted I move to Florida to get my life together or to fade away rescued me.

Well, today I am pleased to say that South Florida has been really good for me. My life is back on track; I no longer want to just die. I am working three jobs. I like all my jobs. I am back at Clikque Magazine. My relationship with Dwight Powell has been mended and I now work for him as his Business Manager. I am also working with the men over at Club Boi, Miami's best Gay Black nightclub. I am also serving popcorn at a movie theater where I get to hire, promote and fire nice young boys. Well I hire girls too since the beauty of women I will always appreciate. I make time to smell the roses and I go to Haulover Beach to sun my bare ass and swim in the nude from time to time.

I have some relationships to mend, but in the mean time I am working on surviving. I am not sure to what I need to credit my recovery, but I do know that my dear friend Rodolfo's dismissal of me from my lease was the first step in my recovery. It could have meant the end of me but it turned out to mean a new beginning.

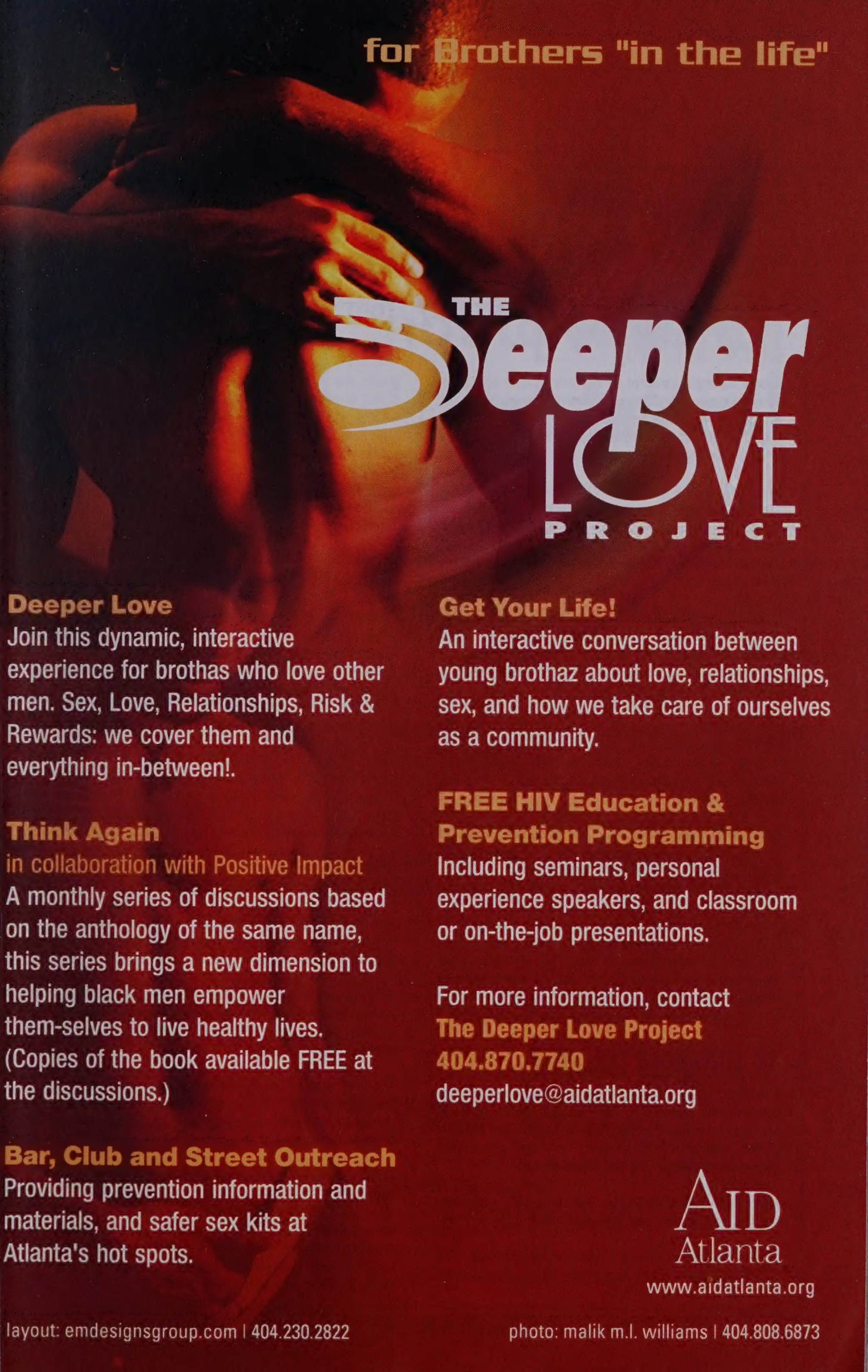
On my ride to Florida, which I spent crying, laughing and reminiscing with my friend Rodney who drove me down from Atlanta, I realized that while I was still breathing I had to do something worthwhile with my life.

I hope that anyone that was hurt by my depression and decision to leave Atlanta will forgive me. I promise I will make it up to you guys.

My mother Niesha Dupree gave me a pep talk and led me back to the four agreements. I go back to the agreements weekly to remind myself of my purpose in life, which is to always do my best, and to be impeccable with my word.

Today as I type this column I am looking forward to lunch with my new found friend and the many opportunities that await me. If you find yourself losing you grip give me a holler so that we can prevent you from sliding as far down as I did.

As the summer continues, please remember to enjoy life and good health while you have it and ***don't forget to love like you have never been hurt and dance like no one is watching.***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CDC Initiative Criticized by groups left out of funding

Agency launches effort to keep people with HIV from spreading disease

Robert Janssen, director of HIV prevention programs for the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, said the federal agency wants to focus more attention on teaching people who are already HIV-positive how to avoid spreading the virus

Two-thirds of the $49 million the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention recently allocated to community-based organizations to fight the spread of HIV will fund programs targeting those already infected, a sea change in the way the federal health agency battles the virus.

The CDC announced the funding awards on May 21 as part of its "Advancing HIV Prevention Initiative." That effort, first announced in April 2003, calls for tailoring prevention messages to HIV-positive people to keep them from spreading the disease.

The traditional emphasis on safe-sex messages for HIV-negative individuals created a health and information gap for those already living with the virus, said Robert Janssen, director of the CDC's HIV prevention programs.

But some agencies that have received CDC funds in the past criticized the agency's shift in strategy and funding, dubbed "Prevention for Positives."

"Prevention dollars that we desperately need are being squandered by funding an ideological prevention strategy that doesn't work," said Jason Riggs, interim communications director for the Stop AIDS Project in San Francisco. "What we are seeing in effect is a dismantling of HIV-prevention programs for people who are negative and want to stay negative."

S.F. AIDS GROUP TARGETED

The Stop AIDS Project has been in the crosshairs of conservative lawmakers for the last three years. It was the target of various federal audits and investigations over what critics call its "obscene" prevention programs targeting gay and bisexual men.

Riggs said Stop AIDS Project received $225,000 from the CDC during the last five-year grant cycle in 1999.

"Even though in every investigation the CDC has found nothing wrong in our accounting system or programs, we feared ideology would beat out science as it has in almost every health issue across the board with this administration," he said.

Some 142 groups will share the $49 million in grants. While the amount of funding remained about the same as in 1999, Janssen said, the number of groups dropped from 189. Of the organizations that received money last month, 67 were funded in the past by the CDC.

The CDC decreased the number of groups funded "because in consultations with members of different communities they felt the award size needed to be larger in order for their programs to be effective," Janssen said.

A total of 530 groups applied for funding this year. The amount each organization receives will not be finalized until July 1, but will average about $345,000.

Metro Teen AIDS, which provides prevention messages to youth in Washington, D.C., has reduced its staff by three employees since officials learned they lost funding under the CDC's new approach.

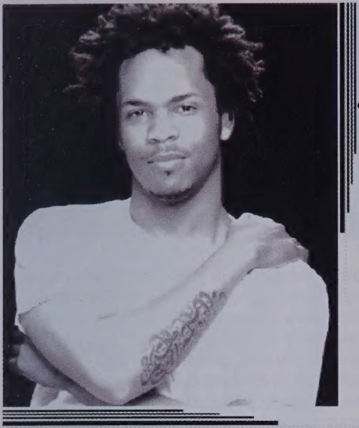
"I think that when we're talking about adolescents, the majority of that money needs to go to basic HIV prevention information," said Adam Tenner, executive director of Metro Teen AIDS. "I think the CDC is moving in the direction of telling you how to prevent HIV after you already have it."

Janssen and other CDC officials hope that delivering prevention messages to HIV-positive people will discourage sexual practices that put others at risk for contracting the disease.

The CDC also targeted regions in which HIV is most concentrated with its funding, along with providing grants to four faith-based groups. Janssen could not provide the names of the organizations.

Critics said the CDC is missing the mark with its new approach.

"The national and regional trends aren't always reflective of what's happening at the local level, and so we're very concerned local data was not included in the funding strategies," Riggs said.



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Why Reagan ignored AIDS

By Michael Bronski

President Ronald Reagan
1911 - 2004

College students born during the Reagan years ask: How could the president have done so little for so long while so many died? It wasn't as simple as homophobia. It was politics.

For the past two months I've been teaching a course titled "Plagues and Politics: The Impact of AIDS on U.S. Culture" at Dartmouth College, and I've spent an enormous amount of time thinking about the AIDS pandemic. So when the political flap over the historical accuracy of The Reagans—the CBS miniseries on the lives and White House years of Ronald and Nancy Reagan that was pulled from the network's lineup and dumped on its sister cable outlet, Showtime—hit the headlines, I was intrigued to see that one of the main complaints against the series was that the original script accused President Reagan of religious intolerance and prejudice against homosexuals. In a scene in which Nancy Reagan asks her husband to do something to help people with AIDS, he responds by answering, "Those who live in sin shall die in sin."

Elizabeth Egloff, who authored the script, has conceded that Reagan's answer is a fictionalized invention, and indeed, Reagan rarely employed religious sentiments or metaphors in political situations. The show's critics have made a strong, salient point: Having Reagan use the language of conservative Christianity to explain why he and his administration did almost nothing for the first seven years of the AIDS epidemic is historically irresponsible and highly misleading.

From everything that we can ascertain from the historical record, Reagan's religious background, feelings, or beliefs had nothing to do with the political response to the AIDS epidemic. Rather, his appalling lack of leadership and vision—which led directly to enormous setbacks for HIV/AIDS research, discrimination against people with AIDS, and the lack of any comprehensive outreach for prevention or education work, thus adding to the already staggering tally of deaths—was a product of indifference, disdain, self-imposed ignorance, and a political capitulation to the rising wave of a new, staunchly reactionary and religious Republican constituency that was to reshape not only the party but the state of American politics.

As we read about and discuss the history of the American AIDS epidemic in class, my students—all Reagan babies, born between 1981 and 1985—are often dumbfounded when faced with simple facts. Although AIDS was first reported in the medical and popular press in 1981, it was only in October 1987 that Reagan publicly spoke about the epidemic in a major policy address. By the end of that year 59,572 AIDS cases had been reported and 27,909 of those women and men had died. How could this happen, they ask? Didn't he see that this was an ever-expanding epidemic? How could he not say anything? Do anything?

But the public scandal over the Reagan administration's reaction to AIDS is complex and goes much deeper, far beyond the commander in chief's refusal to speak out about the epidemic. Reagan understood that a great deal of his power resided in a broad base of born-again Christian Republican conservatives who embraced a deeply reactionary social agenda of which a virulent, demonizing homophobia was a central tenet. In the media men such as Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell articulated these sentiments that portrayed gay people as diseased sinners and promoted the idea that AIDS was a punishment from God and that the gay rights movement had to be stopped. In the Republican Party zealous right-wingers such as Rep. William Dannemeyer of California and Sen. Jesse Helms of North Carolina hammered home this message. In the Reagan White House, people such as Secretary of Education William Bennett and Gary Bauer, Reagan's domestic policy adviser, worked to enact it in the Administration's policies.

What did this mean in practical terms? Most important, AIDS research was chronically underfunded. When doctors at the Centers for

CONTINUES ON PAGE 58

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COP Beat

Kan. court to hear appeal of gay teen sentenced to 17 years

TOPEKA, Kan. – The Kansas Supreme Court last week agreed to hear an appeal on behalf of a gay teenager who received a 17-year prison sentence for consensual oral sex, the ACLU said in a news release. Matthew Limon so far has served more than four years in prison, more than three times longer than the maximum sentence he would have received in the case if he were heterosexual, according to the ACLU. A week after Limon's 18th birthday, he performed consensual oral sex on another male teenager, who was almost 15, the ACLU said in the news statement. Limon was convicted under the Kansas "Romeo and Juliet" law, which provides lighter sentences for heterosexual teens involving sex younger teens, but specifically excludes gay sex, according to the ACLU. "The only reason Matthew Limon is still in prison today is because he's gay," Tamara Lange, a staff attorney with the ACLU Lesbian & Gay Rights Project, which represents Limon, said in the news release. The Kansas Supreme Court likely will hear arguments in the case no earlier than August.

S.C. man acquitted in stabbing death of allegedly abusive lover

ROCK HILL, S.C. (AP) – Richard Lee Hinton was acquitted in the stabbing death of Tyrone Hammonds, a man Hinton called his lover. Hinton testified he stabbed Hammonds in self-defense after Hammonds punched him and attacked him with a knife last October. At trial, both sides concurred that Hammonds chased Hinton down the street before the stabbing. The prosecution said Hinton stabbed Hammonds then ran to avoid arrest. Several people said during the trial that Hammonds was abusive during the couple's two years together. Hinton testified he never fought back until the night of Hammonds' death. Prosecutor Phil Smith said Hammonds' family was hurt by the verdict. "I knew it would be a difficult battle," he said. Hinton's attorney, B.J. Barrowclough, said helping free Hinton "is the most satisfying thing I've ever done in a courtroom."

Fla. man convicted in gay murder has his mouth taped in court

DELAND, Fla. (AP) – A Daytona Beach man who was convicted of fatally beating a retired banker even though another man confessed to the crime had his mouth taped during his sentencing hearing last week after he repeatedly said "I didn't do it." Circuit Judge S. James Foxman ordered the taping after Richard England, 32, made repeated outbursts proclaiming his innocence, some directed at the victim's family, before the jury recommended a death sentence. Foxman is scheduled to sentence England in July. England and his friend Michael Douglas Jackson beat Howard "Cooter" Wetherell, 71, to death with a fire poker in his shower in 2001, then robbed his condominium, said prosecutors, who maintained England killed Wetherell out of anti-gay hatred. Jackson, who said he lived with the victim for about a month before their relationship soured, initially told officials that he and England had killed Wetherell, and agreed to testify against his friend. But Jackson, 21, later changed his story, taking sole responsibility for the murder. He has pleaded guilty to second-degree murder.

Gay N.J. policeman files bias suit alleging he was denied promotion

HALEDON, N.J. (AP) – A police sergeant has sued the borough and several officials, claiming he was passed over for promotion because he is gay. Sgt. James Len filed suit last week in state Superior Court against the borough, Mayor Ken Pengitore, Council member Ayman Mamkej and Police Chief Harold Engold Jr. All three defendants said they had not seen the suit and declined to comment when reached by the Herald News of West Paterson. Len is seeking punitive and compensatory damages, claiming he was subjected to a hostile work environment because of his sexual orientation. He claims officers rigged the evaluation process to prevent him from being promoted to lieutenant. He also says fellow officers harassed him and made anti-gay comments. Len claims he asked police officials to investigate his allegations of harassment, but was refused, and that disciplinary charges filed against him last year were fabricated to discriminate against him because he is gay.

Family of strangled transgendered teen seeks posthumous name change

FREMONT, Calif. (AP) – The name on the birth certificate was Edward Araujo Jr., but the teenager preferred the first name Gwen. At age 17, before getting a chance to make the name change official, Araujo was beaten and strangled after the people she thought were her friends found out she was biologically male. Last week, Araujo's family asked a court for a posthumous name change to Gwen Amber Rose Araujo. "She's Gwen to me, and I'm her mother," Sylvia Guerrero said outside the courthouse. "This is who she was. She's transgender and she's Gwen." Superior Court Commissioner Thomas Surh called the request "a novel situation" and said he would let Guerrero know his decision in about a month. Araujo's family said she had used the name Gwen for years, convinced from an early age that her sexual and biological identities conflicted.

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SIX FEET UNDER
HBO

'Six Feet' still alive

The fourth season of the HBO hit 'Six Feet Under' brings more gay characters and quirky family dynamics.

LEAVE IT TO HBO to totally reinvent the TV show promo with its recent notices about "Six Feet Under," which returned for its fourth season at 9 pm., Sunday, June 13.

For months, we've seen this commercial on the channel (and on the Web site www.hbo.com/sixfeetunder) depicting characters from the show walking through an empty supermarket lip-synching to the Nina Simone song "Feeling Good."

There's Keith (Mathew St. Patrick) watching his partner, David (Michael C. Hall), checking out another man. There's Claire (Lauren Ambrose) upsetting a bin full of oranges. And Nate (Peter Krause) is seen floating away, while Brenda (Rachel Griffiths) is walking through the parking lot alone.

Using nothing but music, atmosphere and innuendo, this promo captures the essence

SUNDAYS
9:00 - 10:00 PM ET

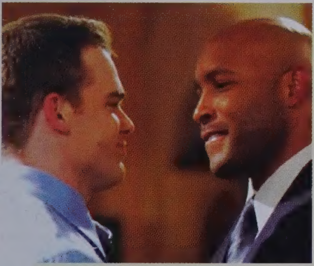
One marriage has come to a tragic end, another is beginning, and a third is on the rocks. At Fisher & Diaz, lives are in flux, as Nate, David, Ruth, Claire and Rico struggle to find their way. What's next? Find out when SIX FEET UNDER kicks off its fourth season SUNDAY, JUNE 13 (9:00-10:00 p.m. ET), with the episode entitled "Falling Into Place," followed by other editions on subsequent Sundays at the same time, exclusively on HBO. In addition, the first three episodes of this season will air back-to-back on Sunday, July 4, beginning at 8:00 p.m.

of each character, offering hints about where last season left off and setting the mood for the coming season.

What would we do without HBO?

AND WHAT WOULD we do without "Six Feet Under," the best series on television.

The fourth season begins where it left off last June – to the minute – which is a bit annoying because it doesn't acknowledge the viewers' time away from the series. Unlike last season's Nate-is-dead-but-not-really beginning, the fourth season starts with Claire, David and Keith in the kitchen of the Fisher & Diaz funeral home after their mother Ruth's (Frances Conroy) hasty marriage to George (James Cromwell).



Upclose With Keith Charles

"When someone sees you as you really are and wants to be with you, that's powerful."

Keith Charles *(right)*, the love of David's life, is charming, handsome and tough - for years he was a gay officer in the LAPD and didn't care who knew it. Being out is important to Keith, and when he and David were first dating it was a major source of conflict between them. Keith was continually frustrated because David couldn't - or wouldn't - be open about his homosexuality. So Keith broke up with David and began a live-in relationship with Eddie, a handsome emergency medical technician David referred to as "Mr. Fucking Superguy E-R."

But that relationship was short-lived. When Keith's drug-addicted sister left town suddenly, Keith brought her nine-year-old daughter, Taylor, into his and Eddie's home. Eddie moved out shortly thereafter and Keith and David, who had remained friends, started seeing each other again. Eventually, Keith asked David - who had developed a close rapport with Taylor - to move in with him.

Things were not easy for the new nuclear family. Keith believes that life is about "striving for perfection," which puts a lot of pressure on him - and everyone close to him. His powerful sense of obligation caused him to badger his sister into rehab; but later, when she killed a man in a hit-and-run accident, Keith turned her in to the authorities. When he shot and killed a man in the line of duty, Keith became a chronic insomniac and lashed out at David whenever he tried to talk about it. In another incident, Keith lost his temper while trying to subdue a suspect, beating the man and subsequently being suspended for it. Not long after, against David's wishes, he sent Taylor to live with his parents in San Diego and quit his job.

Although he and David entered therapy together, their relationship once again bottomed out and David left. Although Keith still loves David and has asked him not to give up on him, it's far from certain that their relationship will survive.

On The Big Screen

SPIDERMAN 2

RELEASE 6/30/04

It's been two years since mild-mannered Peter Parker (Tobey Maguire) first began struggling with "the gift and the curse," and in Spider-Man 2, he's still coming to terms with his dual identity as the web-slinging crime superhero Spider-Man. Now Peter's in college, and his relationships with the people he cares most about are crumbling. He wants to reveal his secret identity to Mary Jane (Kirsten Dunst), his friendship with Harry Osborn is stressed by Harry's growing hatred of Spider-Man, and Peter's Aunt May has fallen on hard times. When a new foe, Dr. Otto Octavius (Alfred Molina), appears, Peter and Spidey face a new challenge.

I, ROBOT RELEASE 7/16/04

I, Robot - The story, set in 2035, focuses on a robot-hating detective named Del Spooner (Will Smith) who is investigating the murder of Dr. Miles Hogenmiller, an employee at U.S. Robotics. As strange as it may seem, a robot named Sonny is the prime suspect; for Sonny to have committed the crime would be a violation of the basic laws of robotics. Dr. Susan Calvin, a psychologist, is helping Spooner in his investigation.

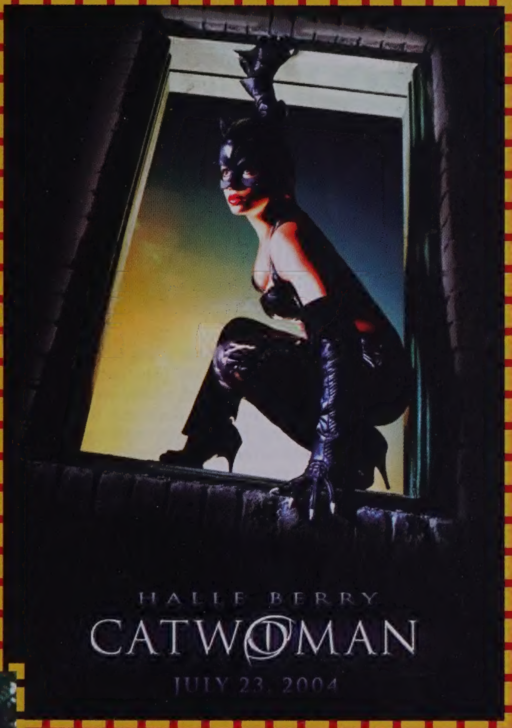
BOURNE IDENTITY RELEASE 7/23/04

In this sequel to the original Matt Damon thriller, the Chinese vice premier is killed by someone claiming to be assassin Jason Bourne. But the identity is just a cover for CIA agent David Webb, so it's clear to the U.S. government that someone else is assuming the Bourne identity. Webb is recruited to discover who's behind the killing to avert a scandal that imperils international peace.

CAT WOMAN

RELEASE 7/23/04

Graphic artist Patience Philips (Halle Berry) is murdered by the stooges of Avenal Beauty, the cosmetics company she works for, when she discovers the company's dark secret. An Egyptian mau cat whose life she saved brings her back to life, after which she assumes the identity of the titular feline superhero, seeking vengeance upon the evil head honchos who run Avenal (Sharon Stone, Lambert Wilson).



THE MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE

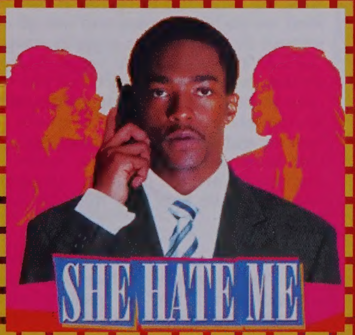
RELEASE 7/30/04

Denzel Washington and Liev Schreiber play two U.S. soldiers taken prisoner and brainwashed into becoming unwitting assassins by the enemy during the first Gulf War. They return home as heroes, though Washington's Ben Marco is troubled by dreams and vague memories of his brainwashing. Eventually, Marco remembers what has happened to him and tries to get to Schreiber's Raymond Shaw, who is running for office, to convince him of what he's remembered.

SHE HATE ME

RELEASE 7/30/04

When biotech executive Jack Armstrong (Anthony Mackie) blows the whistle on his bosses, he's left without a career. Desperate to make money, he accepts an offer from his former girlfriend (who's now a lesbian): help her get pregnant and earn $10,000. Soon, gay women looking to have children begin lining up to pay Jack for his services.



BROOKLYN
DEFEND BROOKLYN

By Daryl Moch

Nubian Spirit

Becoming Your Ultimate Self: Go With The Flow

Harambee (Let us come together):

Beloved, most of our lives are spent going from crisis to crisis or thing to thing. We constantly seek out the next thrill or the next adventure. For far too many of us we live from paycheck to paycheck. Those who find themselves walking on a more spiritual path often go from religious ceremony to religious ceremony; and the strong and dedicated community minded activists of us go from event to event. Unfortunately the end result always is still wanting for the "next" thing. Did you or do you find yourself unfulfilled by the things, people, and possessions you have gathered in your life? You are not alone.

Since our earliest days we have been socialized to seek stuff outside of ourselves to fulfill the inner most desires of our souls and spirits. It often takes a lifetime of searching and gathering to determine that none of this satisfies, truly, the greatest of our yearnings. And then as if the searching was not enough we seek to avoid and correct problems and crisis as they come. In fact, we often work hard to avert a crisis before it can occur. In the meantime the seasons pass, the flowers bloom and fade away, people are born, age and transition all before we realize it and suddenly we look back and find ourselves 10, 15, 20 years older and the memories of those years have faded away.

So for a moment, this day, relax, let go, and just flow. Go with the flow of life. Enjoy the rhythms of life that surround you. Feel the breeze or the rain on your face. Smell the flowers, feel the sun, taste the food and enjoy life. What we often fail to realize is that no matter what we do life happens and will go on with or without us. So why not enjoy it along the way? Put the "things" that are happening to you into perspective- it's not going to kill you (and if it is then getting clarity and stopping it would be an appropriate response to the chaos). Let life happen and go with it. Sometimes the things that seem out of place only "seem" that way because we are out of focus. Sometimes being late may have kept you from an accident- so don't stress.

Now, I'm not telling you to be lax or nonchalant. What I am saying is to free yourself from the stress of being "right" or "perfect" all the time. Recognize that sometimes "right" and "perfect" are illusions and that just where you are right now- just who you are right now is "right" and "perfect". It's ok not to worry. Do your best - in everything that you do and that will be the right thing and the perfect thing. Go with the Flow. Don't try to force anything. From issues at work or school, to relationships, to battling forces in "high" places - just go with the flow. Life happens and the question is will life happen to you or with you? Because it is going to happen, but where do you want to be in the process? Do you always want to be catching up, trying to get ahead, robbing De'shon to pay Quita? Relax, let go, and flow- with life.

I was watching a movie the other day "Sunshine State" and an old man was telling a young teenager who couldn't swim in the ocean how to go with the flow. The young man said he couldn't swim in the ocean because there was an "undertow." The old man said, "There will always be an under tow... the secret is to not fight it..." but to go with it. He suggested that instead of working hard to stay on top and fight the natural ebb and flow of the ocean one should work with the current and allow the flow to enhance your efforts. In life this is also true. And this is my point. If we could stop fighting the forces of nature we could get into the natural rhythm of life and allow that rhythm to energize our efforts and move us along successfully. Just consider it- in every aspect of your life.

Meditate on these thoughts:
I move with the natural flow of the universe. There is no crisis or situation that can over take me or over power me. I am one with the divine energy of life and I allow myself to go with the flow. I free myself from the belief that I must live in stress or chaos. Instead I choose to live in peace and harmony with the forces of life that are here to guide me not hold me back. There is nothing that I cannot achieve when I stop, get focused, and recognize the greatness within me. I only want what is best for me and those things that are not "right" or "perfect" for me will not come to me or bother me. I no longer worry about being "right" or "perfect" because that which is will be and I am free from anxiety about it. Today, right now, I relax, let go, and flow. I am flowing with the natural rhythm of life. I am flowing. I am flowing. I am flowing. I am becoming my ultimate self.

Peace and Blessings.

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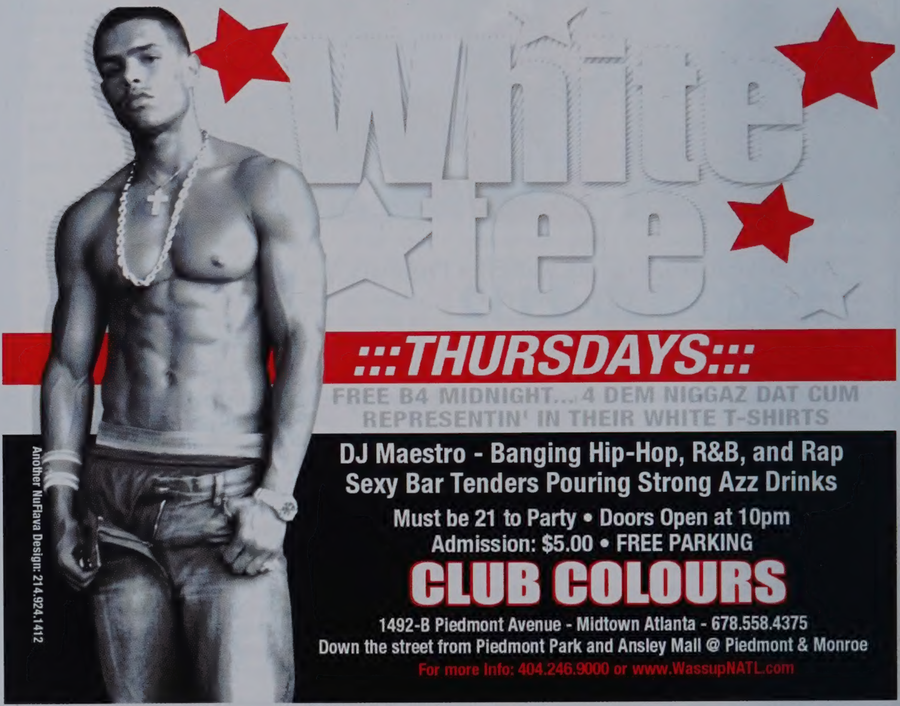
African-Americans & Coming Out

Coming out can be one of the most challenging events in your life, but also one of the most rewarding. Being attracted to someone of the same sex or understanding that your gender identity is different from your biological sex can be frightening. Some African Americans feel pressure to prioritize their different identities.

"Perhaps the most maddening question anyone can ask me is, 'Which do you put first: being black or being a woman, being black or being gay?' wrote Barbara Smith, author of "Blacks and Gays Healing the Great Divide" (Dangerous Liaisons: Blacks, Gays, and the Struggle for Equality. Brandt, Eric Editor, New Press, 1999). "The underlying assumption is that I should prioritize one of my identities because one of them is actually more important than the rest or that I must arbitrarily choose one of them over the others for the sake of acceptance in one particular community."

For many African Americans, coming out involves additional cultural factors that make the process more challenging but no less rewarding. Some of those challenges include associations with often homophobic churches, strong family foundations that emphasize heterosexuality, homophobia in the black community and racism in the broader gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community. Thanks, however, to brave


White Tee

:::THURSDAYS:::

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GLBT African-American activists and their allies effecting change in the church and the community, there is more support and acceptance than ever before.

Religion

The church has traditionally informed, influenced and guided the day-to-day lives of many African Americans. "The black church is not just a place of spirituality and enlightenment, but a place of empowerment for African Americans," says David Neale, founder of Black Lavender Resources (www.blacklavender.com), a consulting firm specializing in diversity within the LGBT community.

Bishop Kwabena Rainey Cheeks, of Inner Light Ministries in Washington, D.C., agrees. "Spirituality is almost impossible to separate from black life," says Cheeks. "The church is a stabilizing force and a place to connect not just to God but to community, as well."

Yet some in those churches have been unwelcoming to people with a different sexual orientation or gender identity.

"The black church, the oldest institution and pillar of the black community, has historically dictated the community's stance on homosexuality – either you don't talk about it, or you condemn it," says Lynn d Johnson, online editor of Vibe Magazine and adjunct professor at Metropolitan College of New York. It is daunting to come out only to face the fear and misunderstanding of society in general, but many GLBT African Americans must face that same ignorance within the very institution that has for so many been the centerpiece of their community. Although no largely African-American denomination has issued a public statement outlining its position on homosexuality, the stances of individual churches and ministers are revealed on Sundays.

"The motto of the black church seems to be 'don't name it, don't claim it,'" says Mandy Carter, a founder of the progressive organization Southerners on New Ground. This informal church dictum has led many GLBT African Americans to find and create other places to exercise their spirituality.

Family

Coming out to family is often one of the most difficult experiences for a gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender person. And for African Americans, it may be particularly challenging, says Sean Camargo, adviser for Diversity and Communities of Color on the staff of Parents, Friends and Family of Lesbians and Gays, (www.pflag.org).

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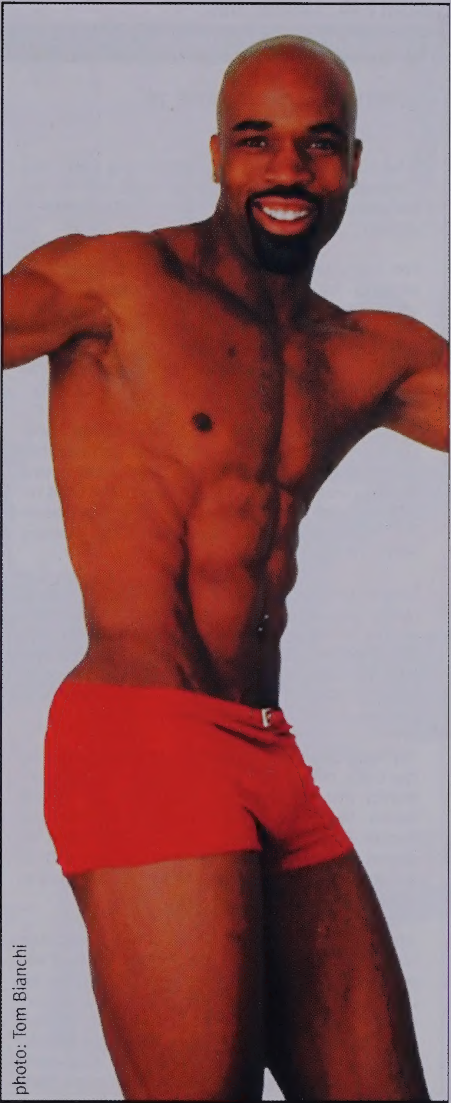

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

"The black family unit is a very strong one," says Carmago. "In a world where racism is still far too prevalent, the family is a haven, a stronghold of support."

For many there is no place in this fortress of strength for a "weakness," as homosexuality is often viewed. Parents sometimes think that having a gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender child is detrimental and damaging to the black family and will negatively affect the whole African-American community.

As the late African-American lesbian author Audre Lorde described it: "Within Black communities where racism is a living reality, differences among us often seem dangerous and suspect. The need for unity is often misnamed as a need for homogeneity." (Sister Outsider: Essays and Poems. Crossing Press, 1984)

Despite the challenges that coming out in the black family presents, many GLBT African Americans choose to share their orientation or identity with their relatives. Being honest with your family is an important step in getting all parts of your life to fit together. One of the most important things is to give them time to process the information.

"My mom thought at first that I could no longer be the torch bearer and political leader in the community that she had expected me to be," recalls Donna Payne, constituency organizer for the Human Rights Campaign. "But as she came to accept and understand who I was, she was able to see that my role as torch bearer was still just as important."

Just as you may have needed information and support in coming out, know that your family may also need more information and support. "For Those We Love" is a program founded specifically to support African-American families of GLBT people. William Beale of Washington, D.C., the father of a gay son and founder of For Those We Love, was involved in PFLAG but felt that others would feel more comfortable in an African American-only support group.

"I'd see one other black person at the local PFLAG meeting, but they'd never return. My guess was that they didn't feel comfortable 'airing their dirty laundry' in that setting, says Beale. "Homosexuality is such a private issue that some feel it should only be shared or discussed with others like themselves."

Society

Many people see the GLBT community as a microcosm of society, in that it faces the same economic, racial, domestic and class issues as the rest of the American public. It is understandable, then, that similar challenges with social issues will exist. Some African Americans don't feel comfortable or welcome in the broader GLBT community or movement that many view as historically white-focused.

"Whether it's intentional or not, when GLBT organizations are predominately white, it discourages people of color. They look at the faces, don't see anyone like themselves and think, 'I have no place here,'" says Mandy Carter, African-American lesbian activist. Carter points to the growth of black pride celebrations as evidence that African Americans need to see other people like themselves. "Some people think that having black prides is somehow divisive, but I see it as another way to affirm the still too frequent invisibility of same-gender-loving blacks."

GLBT African Americans have been virtually invisible in history. Without Bayard Rustin there would have been no 1963 March on Washington for Civil Rights, but most history books rarely mention him and they almost never acknowledge that he was gay. The names of deceased singer Ma Rainey, pro baseball player Glenn Burke and the late Rep. Barbara Jordan, D-Texas, might be found in history books but not their sexual orientation. Telling their stories is a powerful way to educate others and inspire young African Americans who are coming to terms with their sexual orientation.

During the coming out process, it's important to know you are not the only one, and for many African Americans this is a challenge since images of GLBT people in the media or entertainment world rarely show GLBT people of color.

Being African American and coming out as gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender — or same gender loving — may be an extremely challenging experience, but many find that it is unexpectedly rewarding. You not only free yourself from the confinement of the closet, but you also free others from their ignorance about issues related to sexual orientation or gender identity. The presence of open gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender African Americans in the church and within the family will be key to changing the homophobic atmosphere in those institutions. "If we are going to change things, we have to become visible," says HRC's Payne. You will find that coming out is not a one-time event, but rather a lifelong journey. Browse some resources to help take you, your friends and your family on that important path.

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Coming Out To Family

Spotlight On David Neale

When David Neale, founder of the Washington, D.C.-based public relations and diversity consulting firm Black Lavender Resources, was growing up, he was often the target of verbal abuse and harassment from classmates for being gay.

"I've never been very masculine, and kids would say derogatory things about my looks or my voice," said Neale, who is now 27 years old. It accelerated in sixth grade when the Eddie Murphy's "Raw" was released. "I don't know how my classmates got in to see this R-rated movie, but they were repeating every gay-bashing joke they had heard," Neale said. "It was hard to take, especially since Eddie Murphy was a successful and popular African American. But some of his success came at the expense of GLBT people."

Neale accepted his sexual orientation when he was 16, while he was attending a racially mixed all-boys Catholic high school in suburban Maryland.

"I was still enduring harassment and decided that I needed to speak with someone about it. I approached my guidance counselor and imagine my shock when his reaction to my news was to come out to me!" Neale remembers.

Neale greatly benefited from having his guidance counselor serve as a mentor and, with his help, paid his first visit to the local gay bookstore and participated in gay youth discussion groups. While Neale was out to himself and his counselor, he still was not out to anyone else - most notably, his family.

"I knew I would eventually tell my mom and dad but didn't have any kind of plan," Neale said. One day his mother was speaking to him about a co-worker she suspected was gay. "She was using derogatory language and I decided to call her on it. I guess my defense of her co-worker raised her suspicions," Neale said.

The next day his mother called him and asked if he was gay. Neale answered her truthfully.

"She told me I had broken her heart and then hung up," he said. This didn't surprise Neale, but he was surprised when three days later she called him again to say that his being gay would not interfere with her love for him.

"I learned later that she had for some reason kept an issue of Newsweek that discussed genetic origins of homosexuality. The article included a number for PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) which my mom called. Through PFLAG, she got in touch with the mother of a gay child in the D.C. area who talked her through it all," said Neale, whose mother continues to be his ally and advocate.

Once, for example, when the school principal refused to publish an article that Neale had written chronicling his experiences being a gay student, she helped him make and distribute 800 copies of the article to his classmates.

Coming out to his father was a different experience. "My dad has always chided me for what he sees as my lack of athleticism, even though I am a dancer," Neale said. "I remember one time I was stretching for a dance class and he came in and said, 'Why don't you go out and throw the ball around or something?' So I knew it would be more challenging. I didn't think he'd be capable of understanding especially as he had such a narrow view of what masculinity was and I had never met those expectations for him."

When he did come out to his father he was met with concern for what others would say.

"My dad wanted to know why I had to tell people. I explained to him that my self esteem was linked to telling that truth about myself, and that he shouldn't care what other people think," Neale recalled.

His relationship with his father remains distant, though Neale explains that it's a combination of factors that contribute to that situation. Overall Neale has found acceptance and love from his family.

"My mother has been one of my biggest supporters from the moment I came out to her," he says with pride. And that has extended to others in his family.

"A few years ago, my grandmother overheard some people in church saying derogatory things about gays," said Neale. "Though she was in her late 80s, she had always been feisty, so she went over to give them a piece of her mind. 'Don't you be saying things like that about gays. My grandson is gay and I love him.' I am truly blessed to have my family."

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By CRAIG WASHINGTON

A Revolutionary Act

This is a commemoration, an appreciation at the cusp of my 20th year of life with HIV. There is a proverbial mixed blessing entailed in feeling like I do and having AIDS. I love being as healthy as I am. I have not yet lost the thrill of living that many of us lose long before we die. I feel fully immersed in the stream, the flow of life. Particularly I love the physicality, the carnal aspect of living. I love being in my body. I am learning to worship it without shame or apology. It is not just a mere vessel for me. While it is not my essence, it is certainly an essential part of me. I have got to love it. Because everyday the HIV that lives in me, threatens to slowly, imperceptibly, nest and divide, to weaken and kill this body of mine. I will not let that happen. And if viruses possess some form of intelligence as some admiring virologists suggest, then I suspect that this virus, my virus understands that. We have reached if not an agreement, then at least an impasse. I cannot get rid of it and it can't get rid of me. We have a very dysfunctional mutual respect for each other.

But because I have been spared many of the severe manifestations of this disease I still have to remind myself to remain vigilant. To get my bloodwork done, to call and find out what my viral load and t-cell counts are, to continue to set up appointments with my case manager. My long-term wellness has made such precautions seem less urgent. Yet I know better. I know that the insurgent that occupies my territories is clever, its patience inexhaustible, its stealth, its greatest weapon. So I must not fall asleep on my own watch. I do things to ensure my survival, informed by both intelligence and, lately far more frequently, instinct.

For instance, I love my body quite tenaciously these days. Remember Baby Suggs soul stirring sermon on the mount from Toni Morrison's "Beloved"; how she admonished black people to never ignore our flesh. "Love it," she commanded. "Yonder," she warned, "they do not love your flesh." Well, I am feeling her these days. I indulge my body in certain disciplines and certain pleasures. To eat...dessert, to sleep late, to run, to exercise, to stretch, to feel the weight that I push against or pull upon, to inhale, to drink, to lick, to suck, to sweat, to smell, to exhale, to touch, to feel, this is to Live. This is life in the body. Each body is as divine as unique as the color Purple and I think it piss God off when we can dwell in our body all the live long day and not "see" it. So I find myself sometimes smelling myself between my own legs. I taste the salt of my own tears. I touch the viscous tissue of my own pungent cum. I listen to the sound, hug the abrupt quake of my own laughter. This is what I will recall when those angels ask me about the beauty of it all. What was it like down here below.

If my focus is highly erotic, it is because the erotic, like nothing else, reminds me of the animal that I am. I am constantly discovering the differences between the erotic and the sexual. During a recent men's retreat, I met a kind and honest brother who asked to spend the night with me without having sex. I agreed but, as there was a mutual attraction, I was afraid that I would not be able to resist the temptation of his body laid up next to mine. How fortunate then that I managed to refrain from any sexual touch and still hold and be held by him in a manner that left me more naked than many of my sexual encounters. I felt safe and loved in the snug and warm wall of his body. I felt no lack or regret and even though I was excited by his touch I felt no need to do anything other than be touched. I never felt more alive or fully open.

I once believed that the erotic and the sexual were one and the same, or that anything considered erotic must serve as the prelude, the invitation to the inevitable sexual act. Without this all-important consummation, then the erot-

Mr. Washington was lovingly raised by Anna and Leon Washington in Queens, New York and has lived in Atlanta for 11 years. His writings have been published in Clikque, Venus, Arise, Washington Blade, Southern Voice, Atlanta Voice, Atlanta Journal-Constitution, He currently serves as the Volunteer and Training Coordinator for Positive Impact, which provides mental health services for people affected by HIV. He can be reached at cwash360@cs.com.

ic is in and of itself, a worthless tease, a ruse not worth getting hot and bothered about. Erotic is the appetizer that whets our appetite for the main course, sex. And sex of course means intercourse; anything else is foreplay; and sex must culminate in ejaculation. Somebody has to come or the deed has been left undone. My boyfriend and I enjoyed hours of delicious sex sometimes without penetration or climax, yet when I shared this with friends, several of them claimed that this was not real sex. Our culture, true to its Judeo Christian roots, not only enforces a thick, dark line between sexuality and spirituality. It also reduces the erotic to serve the singular agenda of intercourse.

One of the reasons why homosexuals are so feared and reviled, is because our sexualities are often not legitimized by procreation, marriage, or monogamy. The values that define sexual pleasure outside of such constructs as base and immoral are the same values that, in these United States, frame the bodies of women; black and brown people; and gays as terrains of unbridled desire and decadence. These bodies must be covered because they are profane; sanitized because they are hopelessly dirty; punished or imprisoned because they are criminal; lynched, raped, mutilated or otherwise destroyed because they are evil and threaten to subvert the dominance of white men or sully the purity of white women. When the voluptuous Janet Jackson flashed her breast before millions, unsanctioned by white media moguls, it was a transgression for which she was swiftly punished. When the virile, dark-skinned 18 year old Marcus Dixon had sex with a 16 year old white girl in Rome, Georgia, it was a transgression for which he was imprisoned with all due haste. When I sucked another mans dick last night, then rode it way into the midnight hour, it was a transgression for which I could be consigned to eternal damnation or dispatched from this life like the 15 year old Sakia Gunn.

Knowing that I am an outlaw by dint of my skin, my sexuality and my serostatus, it is crucial that I celebrate my day-to-day survival in a land that rejects me as if I were an infection it has discovered and hopes to wipe out. But I know that I belong here, triple offender though I may be, that despite the odds, I have managed to survive here. It is my birthright "bought and paid for" by my African ancestors and their American progeny; and my homosexual forebears. Those whom endured and those who perished so that it would be considerably more difficult, though not impossible, for me to be killed or jailed for eyeballing a white woman or balling a man of any color. I am compelled to celebrate.

As black men who love men, we tend to carry heavy loads of shame often masked by addic-

CONTINUES ON PAGE 30

MALE PUBLICATION: PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES OF ADULT ENTERTAINMENT
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By CRAIG WASHINGTON

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

tions and distorted self images. We are usually served by well-intentioned organizations which don't have a clue about how we see ourselves and where our power and resiliency lies, that we are not merely walking pathologies that are served by catchy messages with hop hop soundtracks or mud cloth graphics. How do we reach the sensual salvation we seek when we are forced to love on the minefield that the brilliant Charles Stephens characterized in the seminal anthology "Think Again"? It is, I think, an unanswerable question and yet we must ask it. One of the most powerful ways for me to exalt the improbable triumph of my drawing breath is to fully embrace my own body. To kiss and trace every warrior mark whether or not it was earned or deserved. As a teenager, I often felt embarrassed by my desires and what or who, either innocently or deliberately, aroused them. I did not wait to relinquish that shame before I started having sex with men. But no paramour however skilled or compassionate could hope to love away the stains engrained beneath my skin. This is my work and I am so commissioned for life.

There was a point, shortly after becoming infected, when sex was no longer sexy to me. After all it was the very thing that got me into this mess. I was afraid to pee much less to have sex. I was so preoccupied with the fear of infecting someone, or someone finding out, or not getting hard, that the first time afterward I could not perform. Well I met this one brother who told me that he was positive as well. And we did it. And it was good. It was so good that the morning after, I fixed him an exceptional breakfast including apricot jam and toast as Nina Simone suggested. And after he left, I took the day off so I could take time to reflect on the experience. I didn't want to let go just yet of what had just happened and act as if nothing had changed. I wanted to savor it. I was not in love. I do not even remember his name. But I remember that he gave me something precious. He reminded me of my right to life, to a corporeal, sexual life. My flesh. I have got to love it. Do not forget to love your flesh. Just love it.

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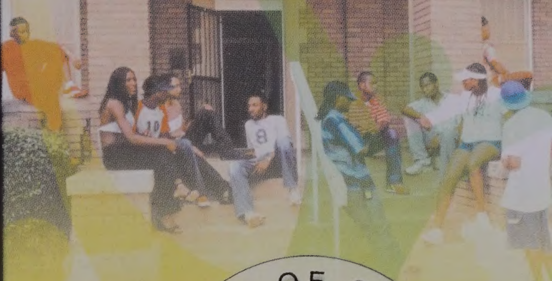

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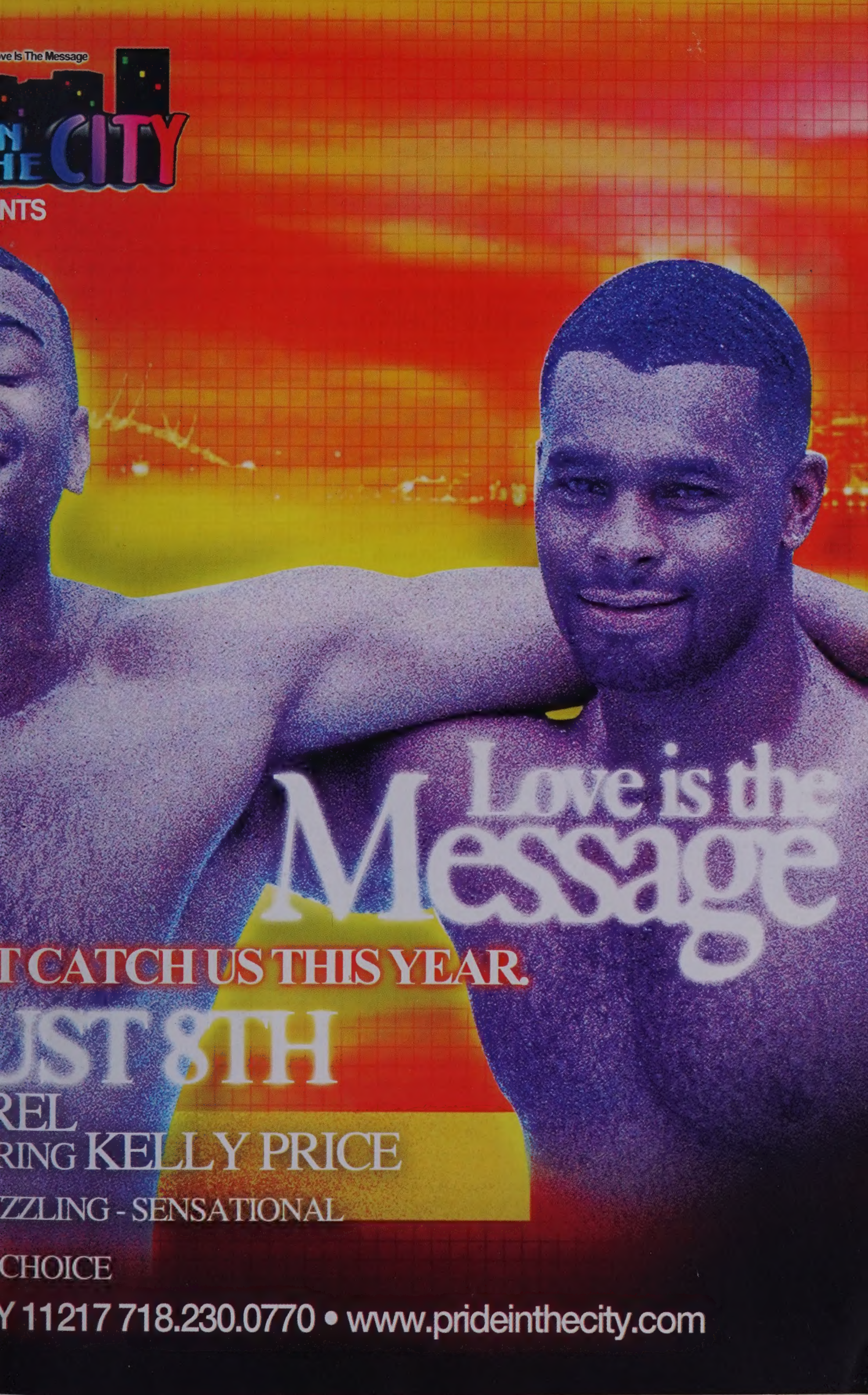

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HELLO DAHLINGS,

It is me, your favorite girl, Bianca Constantine Alexis Buchanan. The illegitimate love child of Rupaul Charles and Pat Buchanan. With parents like those you can imagine my extra- ordinary beauty and twisted cum fuck me persona. I was born fucked up, but after years of therapy and numerous cosmetic surgeries including four rhinoplastis, I continue to live royally. Over the last couple of months I have been working on my beauty and with the surgeries complete I am more dramatically changed than The Swan and even more narcissistic than you will ever imagine. I am sitting perched in lovely ... I can't say where I live because of a stalker named Josephina, who used to follow me around town when I lived in Houston. But I am living well. My collection of bling bling is outrageous and I am being dicked by a big dick Haitian man, whom we will refer to as Big L. Do I need to explain why his name is Big L? I don't think so.

Of course my new tits and gorgeousness has him eating out of the palm of my hands. He told me last night that I was his main girl. Do you know how happy that has made me? Well, I have waited a long time to be his main girl. I used to be his Tuesday-Thursday girl, much the same way I had English 18.11 while in college. Now I can see him four days of the week so this is one happy diva. Enough of me, since this column is really about you my adoring fans. Let me address your issues of the month. Until next month, be bold, stay bitchy, and continue to envy me, because I will forever remain beautiful.
Bianca.

DEAR BIANCA

I am a very unhappy person, although no one would know this because I always look happy. The problem is that I live with a man that I do not want to be with, and the man that I do want does not want me the way I want him. How do I move on and find happiness.
Lonely & Unhappy

DEAR LONELY & UNHAPPY,

It appears you have a serious dilemma, but have no fear; Bianca is here to give you the truth. Girl, I am not one for mincing my words so here is the harsh reality. You only have one life to live. This is not the dress rehearsal. You will need to make up your mind once and for all about the man you are living with. Kick him to the curb and become your own happy woman.

It may be difficult but you need to do it. Unless you believe in re-incarnation or you plan on being young forever, you need to move on.

As far as the other man is concerned, I do not know what to say. We all have this thing, with wanting the things we cannot have. We become almost obsessive to the point where we start hurting ourselves. Practice some self love and maybe you will leave the man you live with and eventually realize that the man you are obsessing about, is better for you at the level of friendship you now have. Is this other man Gay? Until you start living happily, I will remain beautiful.
Love Bianca

DEAR BIANCA,

I work for this fierce entertainment group. We put on very successful events and I get paid to do it. However I feel under compensated for my time and efforts. For example this past weekend we put on

the biggest gay festival in South Florida and had no time to get me some dick despite some 10,000 gorgeous men around me all weekend. How can I assure myself of some dick next time?
Anita Lay

DEAR ANITA,
Stop whining. You are a fag and should have just dropped to your knees in front of all those cocks you wanted to suck. All work and no play makes Jill a horny cunt. Next year after you have done all you think you can do, just call your boss and keep flushing the toilet into the phone. Like all mortal men he will assume you are having the runs and you will not have to explain why you can't go to work. Then use the time wisely to get dicked.
Yours truly,
The ever-satisfied Bianca

DEAR BIANCA,
I went to Sizzle in Miami last weekend and I had the time of my life. So many gorgeous men and so many hot spots to party. I am wondering if you have the name and address or phone number of the guy who won the Clikque Magazine pool party body contest?. He looked like a Greek god and I must have him.
Needy in New York

YOU NEEDY BITCH,
Who the hell do you think I am? Do I look like the type of person who would personally know the winner of a hot - body contest? I have better things to do. And in the future don't write to me asking me David's name nor his address on 89th street, because I don't know either of them.

Besides, you live in New York and my sources tell me he lives in South Florida. Get a grip, get a life and don't ever write to me again. Badass, Beautiful Bianca. P.S. Why would a man with the body of a Greek god want you?

Well that's it for this month. I could not respond to all your letters, but keep them coming, as the more meaningful ones will get published here on this same bad page, in this same bad magazine each month.

Until next time, I remain the ever devastating and beautiful Bianca.

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BY SHAUN BOURGET, M.A., M.F.T.

Sexual Addiction

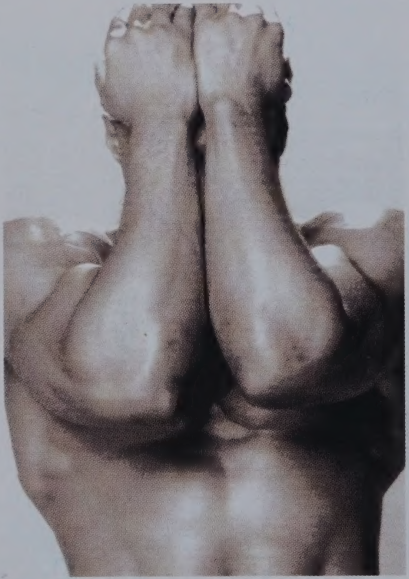
Are You On A Road To Nowhere?

Men's Health magazine reported in June that men, on average, have 12.4 sex partners (in a lifetime), and have sex 1.5 times per week. These numbers may seem low to many gay men, who generally exercise greater sexual freedom than their heterosexual counterparts. But for a person who is sexually compulsive these numbers may seem shockingly low.

Which begs the following questions: How much sex is too much? What is the difference between frequent sexual encounters and Sexual Addiction?

What is Sexual Addiction?

Sexual Addiction (also called Sexual Compulsivity or Sexual Acting Out) is an impulsively driven behavior that clouds your judgement and can lead to negative consequences in your life. Sexual Addiction is, "a chosen maladaptive coping strategy that provides momentary gratification for the emptiness a person feels inside," according to Derrell Tidwell, a licensed clinical social worker based in Los Angeles, CA. As this behavior continues, it gains momentum and becomes a whole new problem in-and-of-itself. "The person's judgement is impaired by the sexual impulses which leads to reckless behaviors with disastrous results," says Tidwell.



In distinguishing between frequent sexual encounters and Sexual Addiction, you must look at your level of self-control and the resulting consequences of the behavior itself. Frequent sexual encounters may be accompanied by feelings of guilt and minor consequences (e.g., tired and unproductive at work the day after a sexual encounter). Compulsive sexual behavior not only carries feelings of guilt, shame, sadness and loneliness, but it also usually results in devastatingly negative mental, emotional, physical or social consequences. Additionally, sexual compulsive behavior by definition involves an irresistible impulse to perform the sexual acts regardless of the consequences. This lack of control over the problem-causing behavior is the hallmark of any addiction or compulsion.

Anecdote

When Ken arrived for treatment he had feelings of guilt and shame related to his recent sexual encounters. Ken promised himself that these meaningless encounters would cease, but he felt increasingly powerless to stop them. "It's a rush, a feeling of pure excitement, like adrenaline pumping through every vein in my body," he explained.

Like many others, Ken suffers from Sexual Addiction, a maladaptive behavior used to compensate for his issues with closeness and intimacy in his relationships. "It's just so much easier to have anonymous sex with someone I don't know. There is this buildup of excitement and a sexual rush, hoping the other guy will notice me...want me. After we connect, I just lose myself in the sex. It's really not about knowing the guy. I rarely even want to know his name. When it's over, I can simply walk away," said Ken.

During his childhood, Ken's father left his home and his mother in order to make ends meet. Growing up, he received little affection or guidance and he had very little structure in his life. He experienced several significant losses and he learned that closeness with others inevitably results in loss and pain.

As an adult, Ken used sex to avoid closeness and intimacy with others (his greatest fear). At the same time, he learned to satisfy his thirst for attention with sex. But his behaviors only created more problems and complications in his life.

Problems Caused By Sexual Addiction
Whether you refer to it as Sexual Compulsivity, Sexual Addiction or Sexual Acting Out, the issue is not only the sexual behavior itself but also the problems that the addiction causes.

Sexual Addiction can cause problems in all aspects of your life -- physical, legal, financial and vocational. The addiction can also impact negatively on your relationships with friends, family and partners.

Possible Causes of Sexual Addiction

The powerful sexual desires, impulses and behaviors associated with Sexual Addiction are manifestations of deeply rooted mental and emotional issues. The sex is used to compensate for, distract against, cope with or fend off inner turmoil and conflict. Unresolved conflicts, lack of trust in others, fear of closeness, and irrational negative self-perceptions originate earlier in the developmental years of childhood.

"People suffering from Sexual Compulsivity experience difficulty attaching to others because of the vulnerability required of true intimacy. Since they do not trust others, they have a real problem being simultaneously close with and vulnerable to significant others," according to Tidwell. Thus, it is much safer to "connect" with someone anonymously on a sexual level than to become sexually intimate with someone on a much deeper level.

Some of these internal issues include:

- Lack of trust in significant others
- Fear of closeness and/or intimacy
- Negative self-perception
- Unending need for attention
- Low self-esteem, self-worth and self-respect
- Feeling unloved, unattractive, and unwanted
- Self-destructive tendencies
- Feelings of depression, sadness, loneliness
- Views of sex as the only "viable" means of connecting with others

Can Counseling or Therapy Help Me?

If you think you have a Sexual Addiction problem, therapy or counseling may help.

The first step of treatment is usually to recognize that your behavior is an unhealthy way of dealing with emotional issues. A professional counselor may help you to become more aware of both your behavior and the unresolved internal issues that may be causing your compulsive behavior. Your counselor may also help you make healthier behavior choices.

A sexual addict may display one or more of the following problems:

- Recurrent, intense sexually arousing urges, impulses or behavior that causes psychological stress.
- Continued display of sexual behavior despite a desire to reduce or terminate such behavior.
- Arrests for illegal sexual behavior including prostitution, indecent exposure, voyeurism, selling or buying child pornography, or sexual acts with a minor.
- Financial problems due to excess money spent on sexually oriented pursuits (e.g., pornography, online sex, phone sex, prostitution, etc.).
- A significant decrease in important social, recreational or occupational activities because they interfere with sexual activities.
- A propensity to engage in additional high risk behaviors including unprotected sex and drug and alcohol abuse.
- Contracting frequent and/or multiple sexually transmitted diseases (i.e., HIV, syphilis, chlamydia, gonorrhea, etc.).
- Continuation of sexual behavior despite persistent physical, legal, financial, vocational, social or relationship problems directly caused by the sexual behaviors.

SIZZ

SIZZLE2004

The Newest & Hottest Circuit Event

I arrived Miami International Airport on American Airlines Flight 1236 from New York, with Prada purse on hip and my Louis Pieces hauled by a baggage service technician, to the waiting limousine, I was carted off to the **Sheraton Biscayne Bay Hotel** where I would spend the next five days gagging.

Upon arrival at the hotel, I was met by the drop dead gorgeous **Miss Alexis** who is real fish on vacation from college. She gave me my welcome Package, which included a Sizzle tank top, shopping guides to Miami, Museums and eateries, as well as the events guide and my own personal black book for the datalations. I asked for an additional black book since I came to get numbers, pick up trade and make business contacts. Lies we tell. In addition, there were packets of condoms from one of those organizations. I think it was Urban Soul Squad of Miami.

First stop on the club scene was **The Soho Lounge**. A multilevel facility, featuring various rooms for us to indulge in different pleasures, was made available to all who had come to Sizzle early. The music was hot. **DJ Q** of **Atlanta** played his ass off and rocked my nerves, as did **DJ Jody** from **Miami**. The go-go boys in their Egyptian costumes were hot. Dick prints galore and the bodies were right. What a nice assortment of boys? From the slender Latino, to the big muscular Black man were on hand for our entertainment. Between the boys and the bar, I can't remember which got more of my money. The staff that greeted me were friendly and not to mention good looking. At the end of the night I knew I would have to

CONTINUES ON PAGE 43

This Is How Sizzle Got The Party Started... Not Bad. Not Bad At All. Thursday @ SoHo Lounge!

SIZZLE 2004
OFFICIAL JUMP-OFF
MIAMI [illegible]
CRUSADE

THURSDAY MAY 27TH
See Some Of America's Finest Prime Cut Beefy Men Take It All Off As They Compete For $500 Cold Cash

15 MALE DANCERS
In The House From Atlanta, Miami, DC & Chicago

Doors Open At 10:30 PM
ID Required
18 To Party
21 To Drink & Party

Featuring 3 SEXY Rooms & Cool Down Lounge Outside

Soho Lounge
175 N.E. 36th Street
Miami Design District, Miami, Fl
From I-95 Take I-195 East
Take Exit 2B Towards Biscayne Blvd
Turn/Merge Right Onto NE 36th Street
Go Straight, Pass Denny's, Continue Straight
Cross Rail Road Track, Make 2nd Right
Turn After RR Track & The Club Is On The Right
Visit www.sizzle2004.com

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 41

call my charge card folks to let them know I would be on a spending frenzy, this weekend.

One of my girlfriends got thrown out of the club, because she refused to pay the tip that was attached to her drink price. Poor girl did not realize that they do that, in sophisticated clubs when you pay by credit card. Despite that, I had a blast.

Before I forget. The **Sizzle Banner** displayed outside the Soho Lounge that night was incredibly beautiful and was available for viewing at every event that was to follow. Even after seeing it several times I could not help but continue to gaze at its beauty.

I got back to the hotel at 6:00 am, played around with a hot number from Kentucky who I will refer to as boy number one then passed out. It was room service that woke my ass up at noon.

Friday midday: I clean up, put my face on and did a couple pushups, to make sure that this bod I had spent so much time on the last six months would be good to go. I put on my Sizzle Tank top which was good for a day time outing and headed to the gym, then the mall, then some more shops and off to the airport to pick up my girlfriends whose jobs would not give them Thursday off. Too bad they should have gone to college.

We had dinner, I told them about last night's trade, which was good, but one girl had the nerve to ask me if I was going to see him again. With this many men the answer was a helified, Hell no. No disrespect, but I am not sure I would ever see this many gorgeous men in one place again.

After a well-deserved rest we got dressed in the best fashions we had brought and headed for some club named **Pure Nightlife**. Our Judys who lives in South Florida did not know what to expect, as this venue does not normally host gay black men. To our surprise, **it was off the muthafucking chain**. The space was awesome. The best I have seen for a gay circuit party and trust me, this whore has seen many a nightclubs. **DJ Gavin** spun my ass into a frenzy and the bartenders rocked my world. I twirled and twirled and ... you get the picture. The bevy of go-go gods was to die for in those damn angel wings, serving devil. I saw a bunch of girls from my past, but it was the new boys who all seemed to be sporting boners as they brushed up against me in passing that got my attention. The crotch-to-crotch action was severe. The sea of beauty that surrounded me overwhelmed me. So I just decided to kiss as many handsome men as I could and hope the most

SoHo Lounge

CONTINUES ON PAGE 44

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 43

masculine one would take me back to my hotel. Ok, I am promiscuous, I can't help it.

I am not sure what time the club ended, last time I checked it was 6.15 am and my ass was still on the dance floor. The rest of the night is one big blur.

I remember being woken up by the sound of a drag queen on a microphone as my room was poolside. I looked out and to my amazement there had to be about **1000 screaming faggots parading on the pool deck**. Looking lovely and sickening. I was actually feeling quite sick when I looked up and realized that a man I will call boy number two was still in my bed and he was not as manly as I remembered him to be either. Oh well.

I shoved him through the door and took a long bath, put on something from my Gucci collection and headed for the pool. My gosh was this pool party given by the **Legendary Clikque Magazine** awesome? What can I say about this party? It was so fetch!!

Clikque
MAGAZINE

You can read about it on the pool party review page in this very same magazine. Oh, the boy from New Jersey in the camouflage swim trunks gets my vote. He was right.

After the pool party I went to dinner then had just enough time to head on over to **Club Boi**. It was hot and sticky over there but the boys were cute. My bartender in the Hawaiian sarong, who showed me his piece since he was wearing no draws, got my vote for that night. Did you all see him on the small bar upstairs? The same bar where X-rated showed off his huge tool much to everyone's delight? I left ClubBoi at 7.30 am. And for real, **Miami was sizzling**.

I slept most of Sunday and heard that I had not missed much, as the Beach party was cancelled by the city of Miami, because they claimed it was too crowed on the beaches, that day and was a risk to public safety.

After finally getting up at 6:00 pm, I went to Houston's with some old girls for dinner, and then it was time to get dressed for the **Banjee Magazine Sex On The Beach party**. This event was held at the **Blue Café** in **Sunny Isles**. It was packed, it was hot, it was amazing but as the **MC Busta** from Atlanta reminded me every five minutes, what happens at Sex On The Beach stays at Sex On The Beach. I guess if you weren't there you shoulda been. Enough said.

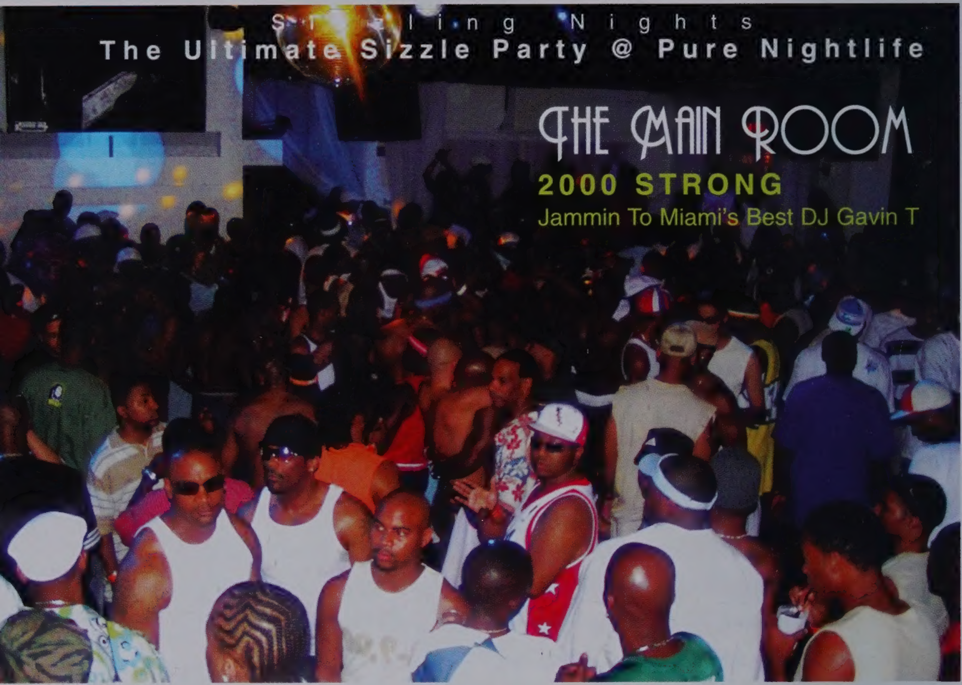
If you think four days of partying was enough you were truly mistaken. On Monday daytime, everyone flocked to Haulover beach to get naked or watch naked men. This South Florida nude beach is simply divine. I got my life there too and a bunch of numbers. It sure pays to work out. With the beach over and my trifling ass having planned on staying to Tuesday and VIP card permitting, I went to the last hurrah that Monday night, at **Club I/O**. I went because I was still in Miami and the event was already paid for. much to my surprise, most people had the same plans. This night proved to be one of the best, as the space was major, so were the drinks and the go-go boys, plus I spotted a few celebrities in the mix. The fact that they were wearing baseball caps did not disguise them enough from me. How many basketball players and track athletes did you spot at Club I/O? It was not one or two, it was quite a few. I hope you got to feel up on a few like I did. Just goes to show that celebrities need dick too. I left I/O at 5.00 am that Tuesday morning with a to do list that read, book Sizzle 2005 vacation now on lines 1-10.

Miami sizzled, I partied, and I lost my mind, slept with one queen and a couple of hunks. I would not have changed a thing about the Sizzle weekend. Banjeeboi Inc and Clikque Magazine get a letter grade of A for a superb event. So for you girls who were there, see you next year and those who missed it, what can I say? You shoulda been!

Begin Making Plans For **Sizzle 2005**

Visit The Site @ Sizzle2005.com

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND
SIZZLE
MIAMI



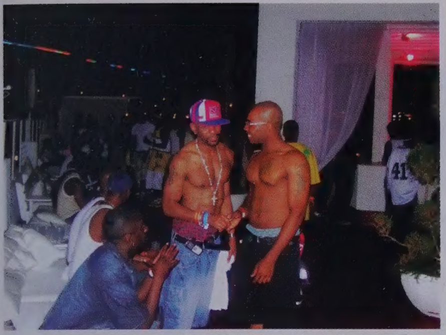
Sizzling Nights

The Ultimate Sizzle Party @ Pure Nightlife

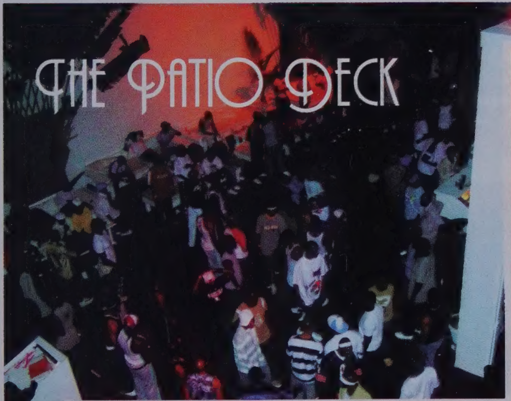
THE MAIN ROOM

2000 STRONG

Jammin To Miami's Best DJ Gavin T



Voted Best Night of the Sizzle Weekend, Pure Nightlife proved to be the ultimate in nightclub spaces. Offering an upper deck, cruisy walkways and relaxation verandahs, Pure was the elite of our many fine party spaces. Try never to miss a Banjee Boi Inc. party, given at Pure.



Now You Can See Why Saturday May 29th Was The Hottest Day On Record For The Year 2004 In Miami.

A Miami native by the name of David proved that south Florida, despite its smaller black gay population was still a contender, in the race for sexiest men in North America. Before a capacity packed audience of 1000 gorgeous men from around the globe, **David** bested a field of 15 contestants to walk away with the coveted prize of $500 in cash and a chance to appear on this months cover of **Clikque Magazine.**

The competition, which was hosted by the very entertaining and sexy **Kennedy Davenport** of **Dallas, Texas**, now residing in Miami, was one of the hottest I have ever witnessed. All the contenders looked lovely, but it was David's revelation that took him over the edge to capture the grand prize.

Wearing a yellow and black lounge wrap pant, David strutted his stuff to an engaged and captive audience and got thunderous applause. However, when **Maceo** of Detroit and **Saint** of Atlanta, started to steal the spotlight from him, there went the wrap. The hooting and hollering was unimaginable and with that Clikque Magazine found it's newest cover boy.

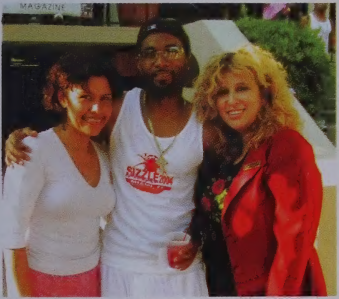
David is a Massage therapist and Personal trainer from Miami, whose business is called the **Body Architect**. With muscles rippling and bulging everywhere, the very gracious David said he enjoyed the competition. When asked what part of the weekend he enjoyed most, we were shocked to find out that winning the contest actually ranked lower than the amazing time he had at Pure Night club the night before.

Interested readers of this magazine should be pleased to know that David is going on a summer tour which will begin in New Orleans, go as far north as New York and end in Atlanta, before he heads back home. When asked how he can be reached, David suggested that you come to South Florida and make an appointment for a massage or some personal training and you can get to spend time with him. His information is available from Clikque Magazine for those needing his services.

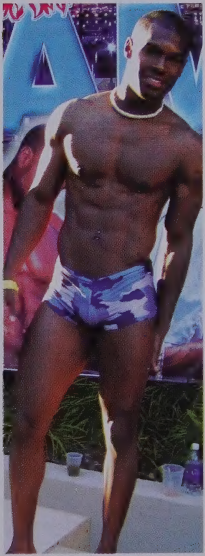
Clikque salutes this months cover boy, and thanks him for helping make this year's pool party and hot body contest such an entertaining and competitive one.

SIZZLE 2004
MIAMI, FL
MIAMI

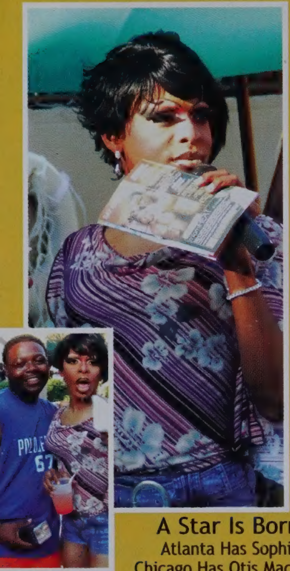
The Sizzle Gang: Chris (seated), Lewis, Rod, Charles, Louis & Dwight Enjoying Themselves @ The Hottest Pool Party To Hit Miami


SIZZLE 2004

Sizzle Organizer & Founder With Hotel Reps
Mariam & Angela @ Clikque Pool Party



Can Someone Please Tell This New Jersey Hotty To Call The Staff At Clikque



A Star Is Born

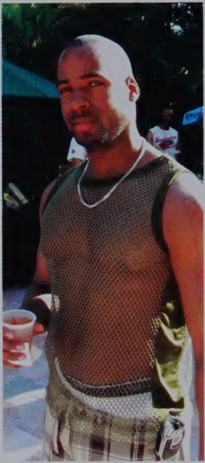
Atlanta Has Sophia
Chicago Has Otis Mack
New York Has Harmonica
Houston's Got Cookie and Miami's Got
KENNEDY DAVENPORT

Allow us to introduce you to the latest, hottest, drag phenomenon to hit the scene. Relatively new queen on the block, but she has big dreams and a lot of talent. She is a big fan of Atlanta's Sophia Mc Intosh, but Sophia had better watch out because here comes Kennedy Davenport.

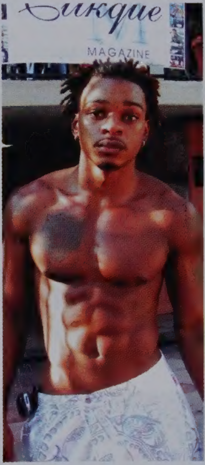
Child of Kelixis, Kennedy is a sweetheart. She is personable, charming and witty and she got her good looks from her mother who is undeniably pretty. Kennedy took on the role of hostess for the Legendary Clikque Magazine pool party after the official hostess Samantha Devine was forced to withdraw.

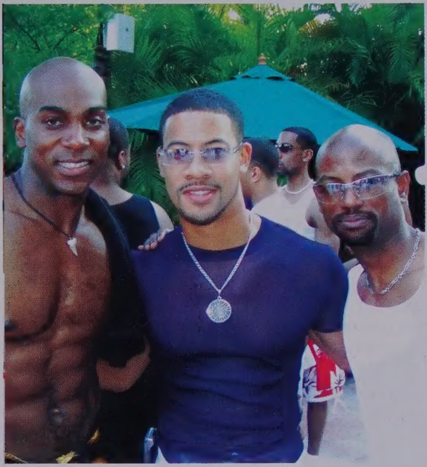
Thank goodness for that, Miss Kennedy Davenport turned out the party. The bitch can slug a cocktail, and shake her ass like a goddess, but more importantly she has a mouth on her. So much so, that Clikque Magazine has decided to make her the official host of Clikque events to come.

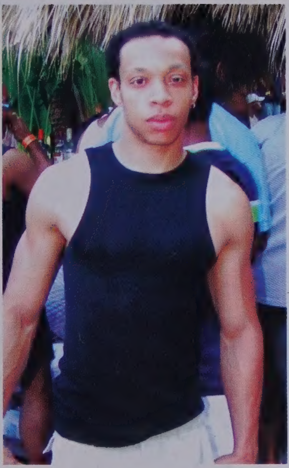
Kennedy had us in stitches with her off the wall humor and ability to improvise. So what if she inhales liquor like a trucker and so what if she won the strip contest at Boardwalk one Wednesday? We still think she is a classy lady who is going places and we at Clikque both welcome and salute her. You can catch Kennedy all over the globe, as she is a pageant queen but just remember that in the future when Clikque is having an event Kennedy Davenport will be right there. Yu go girl

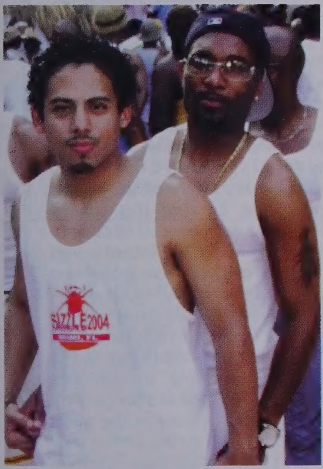


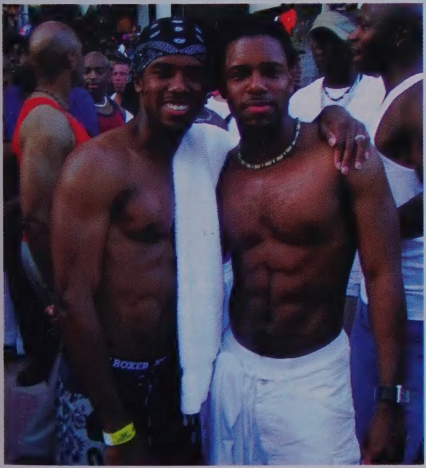
untington Beach

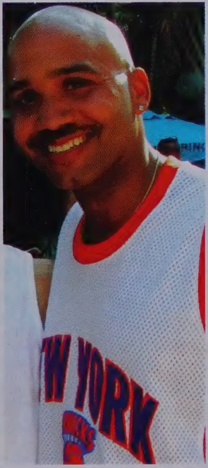


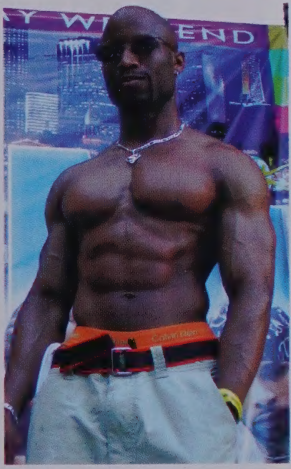





SIZZLE 2004


BOXER


NEW YORK


Y WEEKEND

ARTICLE BY SCOTT BOGAN

The guard is ALWAYS on watch!

I was recently out and about engrossed in my everyday errands when someone who wanted to talk about one of my articles approached me. We stood there for 10 minutes discussing my point of view and then he offered me his. At the end of this conversation, he pointed out to me that I wasn't at all like I appeared to be in my column. He said that I seemed a lot more reserved whereas in my column I was more open and free with my thoughts. At the time the comment didn't really register with me and I glossed over it and moved on completing my errands. Later when the comment reappeared in my thoughts, I considered the meaning behind it.

The truth is (and I think that I have shared this before) that the public me, the person that hangs out with my friends at parties and on the rare occasion in clubs or wherever, is very guarded. There are a few reasons that I guard myself so carefully. The easiest one that I can share is that I slightly suffer from social phobia (meaning that I fear social situations). The reason that I say "slightly" is because I am not afraid to talk to people but I cannot just approach someone and strike up a conversation on a whim. I get very nervous, I don't have a clue what to say and just thinking about it while typing this puts butterflies in my stomach. On the flip side, if someone were to approach me, I still wouldn't know what to say but I would try my hardest to be engaging and participate in the conversation. For example, I was waiting for the elevator one day going to my gym when the doors opened and there is this very cute guy that I have admired from a distance for years (probably as long as I have been a member at this gym). I said hello, kept my eyes on the floor and immediately moved to a sidewall where I stood with my arms folded across my chest. Normally I don't stand like this because I am very aware of the signals that it sends out. But because this chance meeting caught me off guard I needed to cling to some security and I guess that security was myself. When he spoke back and asked how was I doing, I lifted my head to glance in his direction and found his eyes meeting mine with a pleasant smile on his face. In retrospect, his eyes and smile had a certain warmth but at the time, all I could do was say, "fine" and my eyes went back to the floor. We rode in silence for a couple of floors. As we got closer to the ninth floor (where the gym is located) out of the blue he asked if I have taken the yoga class on Sunday's. To understand his question, I must share with you that he and I have regularly taken a Tuesday night yoga class. To answer another question that I am sure everyone is thinking, yes this man is black. Black men/women do practice the discipline of yoga, but that is another topic. Anyway, when he asked me this question I stammered searching for words. While I knew that I had never taken the Sunday class, it shocked me that he knew I was in the Tuesday class. Right when the doors opened to the 9th floor, I was finally able to say, "I have only taken the Tuesday evening class". I tried to go about my business but as I got a few steps ahead of him it occurred to me that I was letting another opportunity pass me by. So I forced myself to come from behind my wall. I turned around with my stomach in knots and asked him about the Sunday class. We stood there for a few minutes talking about the class and when he was finished I didn't know what else to say so I very awkwardly and abruptly said "see ya later" and I walked off. I am sure that he thinks that I am completely insane. Quite frankly, I often think so myself. That is the thing about social phobia, even when you really want to talk to people, sometimes you inexplicably just can't.

Another reason that I guard myself is because I am a pretty sensitive person. I am by no means saying that I am "thin-skinned" or I cry every time someone wants to "read" me. I can go toe-to-toe with the best of them. What I am saying is that when someone does get close to me, I completely invest all of me. When it comes to friendships or relationships, I don't live in gray areas and at times this has gotten me into some volatile situations. The result usually ends up being that I push these people away in order to protect my feelings. I don't like this about myself, but it is definitely a tactic that I use for my own survival. This is probably why my closest friends are people that have been a part of my life for 10 years or longer. They have seen all sides of me...the good, the bad and the ugly and they still hang around just as devoted and protective of me as I am of them.

The last reason that I am willing to share is the hardest one for me to share. I honestly must say that I don't find too many people that interesting. This is hard for me to say because there are a lot of people that already think that I am a snob and this statement somewhat supports their thought. Allow me to explain. I think that most people hide behind a pretense that everything in life is wonderful and ok. They opt to put on a "game face" instead of being themselves (if they know who they are). Think about it, how many people do you know that have gone into debt to own Gucci, Prada, a Lexus, a Mercedes, etc all for the sake of appearance? I'm not even going to mention the people that purchase things in someone else's name (yeah stunt gurls)....oops, I'm sorry I said I wasn't going to mention those people. Just for the record, I admit that I have a closet full of "game face" that I used to hide behind and sometimes still do. The difference in me now is that I know who I am and that those things don't define me. Then there are the people that are so insecure that all they can talk about is themselves. The spotlight must always shine on them. A couple of months ago I went to dinner with a friend who invited two other guys that I did not know. I was warned that one of the guys talked too much. At first, it didn't bother me because I know that when I encounter new people my guard is up and I usually sit on the periphery anyway. But as the night progressed I became completely annoyed. This person monopolized all of the conversations with nothing but self- indulgent topics and if the conversation dared to change to someone else's topic he tried to bring it right back to him. I was

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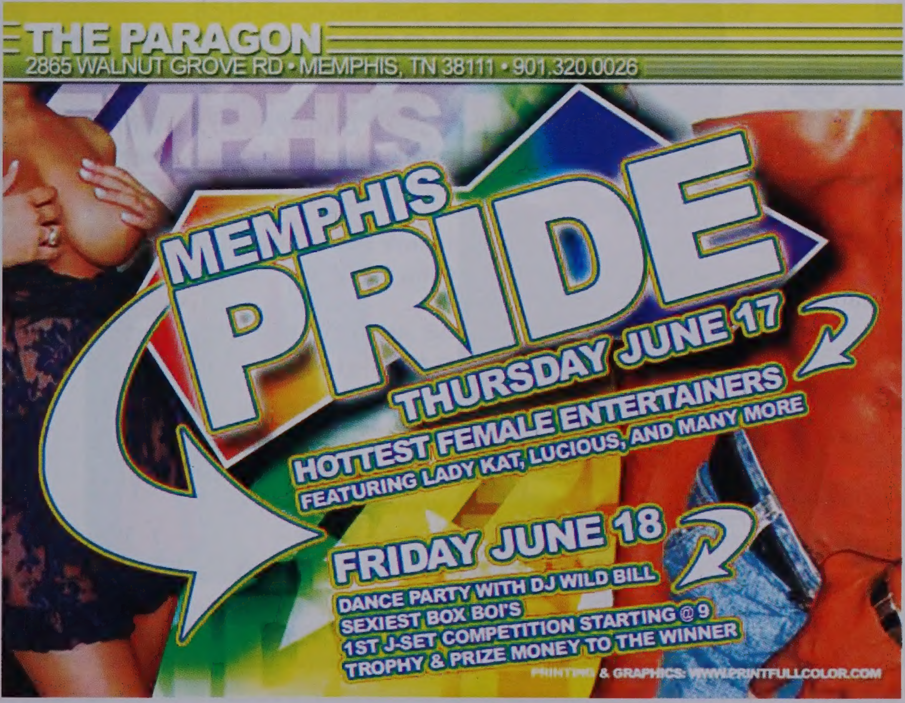
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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 53

told later that the look of disdain on my face was "priceless". I couldn't help it. I cannot stand selfish, inconsiderate people. While I understood that his incessant meaningless chatter was because he probably did not feel like he measured up to the others at the table or maybe he felt the need to prove himself right off the bat. Whatever his reason, I know that it came from a place of insecurity and even though I know where his behavior came from I still find it unbearable and boring. It's boring because it's transparent and there is nothing substantial for me to sink my teeth into. In a word, it's just "fluff".

One of the things that I am most clear about is that my writing allows me to get my thoughts and feelings out on paper then detach myself from them and hopefully learn something about myself or heal a part of me that needs healing. I love it when I hear from readers that connect with something that I have written. Even if they strongly disagree, it says to me that I have gotten someone to think about something that they may have never considered. But if no one ever sends me emails or approaches me, that is all right because my writing is ultimately about...me.

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A research study of the University of California, San Francisco

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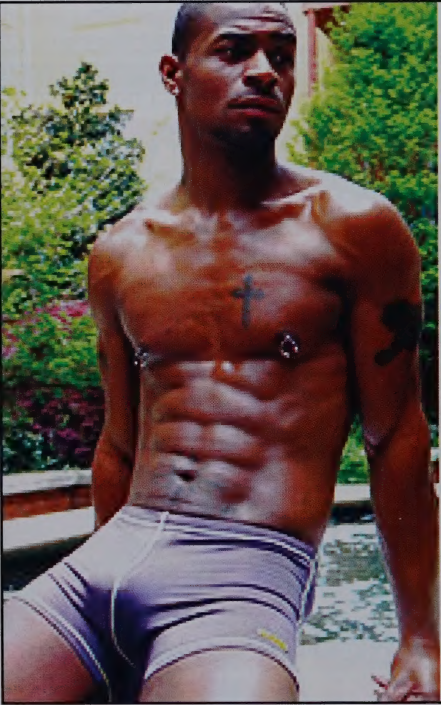

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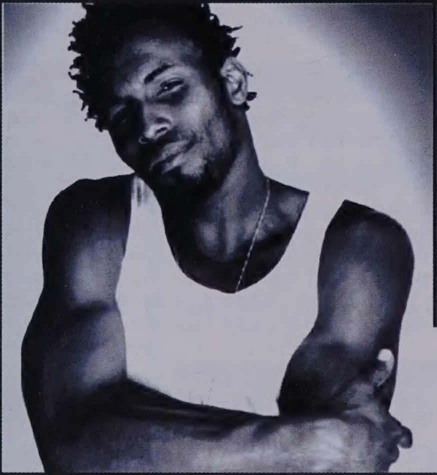

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CLIKASCOPE

GETTING YOUR MONTH OFF TO A GREAT START

ARIES

Aries - You are being indecisive about many things. Go on girl and just do it. You have what it takes to be a success and no one can stop you this month. Kick that bitch out of the way and claim what is rightfully yours.

TAURUS

Taurus - You egocentric, pig headed bull. Be nice to everyone you meet this month and you will see that life is not as mercilessly competitive as you think. Someone loves you and really wants to be your baby. Open up and let him.

GEMINI

Gemini - The summer is almost here and you are in the best of spirits. You are hopeful about the new boy that you have your eye on and finally spoke to. He is a good catch. Play your cards right and you will be one happy gal.

CANCER

Cancer - The misery of the last nine months of your life is finally over. Like the summer sun you, are brilliant and ready to shine. All sorts of opportunities are waiting for you to take them. So go on girl and just do it.

LEO

Leo - It is time for you to find your purpose in life. It is not just simply to live, but it is to live and seek happiness. That is your ultimate goal. So get that hot body of yours into even less clothing and let the kids know you are here, fierce and ready to truly live

VIRGO

Virgo - So he is back in your life and so are you. Back in your own life and feeling good about yourself. Isn't it nice to feel like you have accomplished something? Treat yourself to a fab reward. Do something daring and forget about what others might think.

LIBRA

Libra - Everyone thinks you are a bitch, but only half of them are right. Along with the title, miss bitch comes your many other glowing attributes. You are smart, talented and promiscuous, and this summer the folks won't know how to take you. You are a star girl, so just remember to always shine.

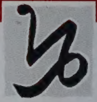
SCORPIO

Scorpio - What can be said about you other than that you are a self absorbed whore. The men in your life are sexually satisfied but all of them are trying to figure out when you will share one iota of emotion with them. As it stands they will have to wait, as you are simply not ready. The, saying goes all that glitters is not gold but you are!

SAGITTARIUS

Sagittarius - You better work heifer! You are so fetch! Fetch? Huh? Well that word is never going to catch on Gretchen but neither will you Minerva, unless you start changing today. You are all that and two bags of chips so start acting the part. Be nice to yourself this month. You deserve it.

CAPRICORN



Capricorn - Those you love most seem to give you the hardest time. A time is coming when you get to call the shots. People will respect you for the great human being that you are. Keep your head up. Better times are on the way.

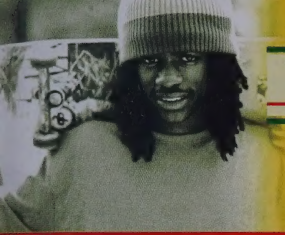
AQUARIUS

Aquarius - All work and no play makes jack a mere toy. All your hard work is about to pay big dividends. Success comes through hard work and you have been working hard. The harvest is ripe and you are about to get yours. The people who love you have your back this month. Now reciprocate the love.

PISCES

Pisces - Miss Girl, Miss Girl. Stop running and settle down. Whether it be with a man, a job or a place to call home, just stop the running. See how much your lifewill improve as you settle down. Some boy is waiting to call you husband.

CHECK US OUT ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB



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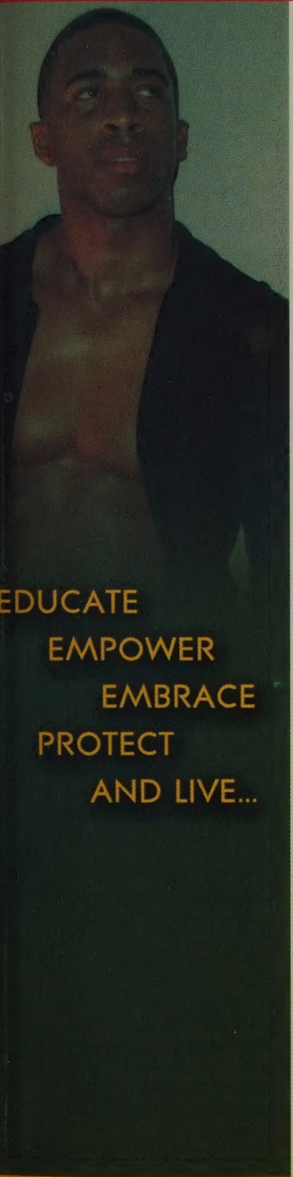

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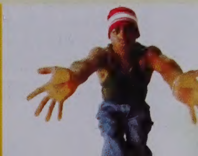

By Michael Bronski

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Disease Control and the National Institutes of Health asked for more funding for their work on AIDS, they were routinely denied it. Between June 1981 and May 1982 the CDC spent less than $1 million on AIDS and $9 million on Legionnaires' disease. At that point more than 1,000 of the 2,000 reported AIDS cases resulted in death; there were fewer than 50 deaths from Legionnaires' disease. This drastic lack of funding would continue throughout the Reagan years.

When health and support groups in the gay community were beginning to initiate education and prevention programs, they were denied federal funding. In October 1987, Helms amended a federal appropriations bill to prohibit AIDS education efforts that "encourage or promote homosexual activity"—that is, efforts that tell gay men how to have safe sex.

When almost all medical experts spoke out against mandatory HIV testing—since it would drive those at risk away from being tested—and groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union and Lambda Legal Defense Fund were attempting to combat discrimination against people with HIV/AIDS, Republicans such as Vice President George Bush in 1987 and Dannemeyer (in a California state referendum) in 1988 called for mandatory HIV testing.

Throughout all of this Reagan said nothing and did nothing. When Rock Hudson, a friend and colleague of the Reagans, was diagnosed with AIDS and died in 1985 (one of the 20,740 cases reported that year), Reagan still did not speak out as president. When family friend William F. Buckley, in a March 18, 1986, New York Times opinion article, called for mandatory testing for HIV and said that HIV-positive gay men should have this information forcibly tattooed on their buttocks (and IV drug users on their arms) Reagan said nothing. In 1986 (after five years of complete silence), when Surgeon General C. Everett Koop released a report calling for AIDS education in schools, Bennett and Bauer did everything possible to undercut and prevent funding for Koop's too-little, too-late initiative. Reagan again said and did nothing. By the end of 1986, 37,061 AIDS cases had been reported; 16,301 people had died.

My students ask me how all of this could have happened. They are all smart, they understand politics, they understand the fear of AIDS, and they understand how complicated—and confusing—history and life can be. But they cannot understand such indifference, even when politically motivated. I told one of my students that the most memorable Reagan AIDS moment for me was at the 1986 centenary rededication of the Statue of Liberty. The Reagans were there sitting next to French president Francois Mitterand and his wife, Danielle. Bob Hope was onstage entertaining the all-star audience. In the middle of a series of one-liners, Hope quipped, "I just heard that the Statue of Liberty has AIDS, but she doesn't know if she got it from the mouth of the Hudson or the Staten Island Fairy." As the television camera panned the audience, the Mitterands looked appalled. The Reagans were laughing. By the end of 1989 and the Reagan years, 115,786 women and men had been diagnosed with AIDS in the United States, and more than 70,000 of them had died.

The protests against The Reagans are really nothing more than a political sideshow with conservatives flexing their muscles (and threatening an economic boycott) to protect their own version of history. The genre of the television miniseries, even one based in contemporary history, is by its nature a project of interpretation—a fact that seems to have escaped the protesters. But the irony is that portraying Reagan as being antigay because of his religious convictions, while wrong, is in fact the kind interpretation. Looking at history, it is clear that Reagan's inaction during the first decade of the AIDS epidemic was due to indifference, emotional callousness, and greed for political power. In the end I agree with those who protest The Reagans—CBS should have told us the truth.

Michael Bronski is a film critic for the Forward, where this essay originally appeared.

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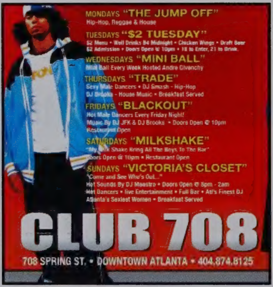
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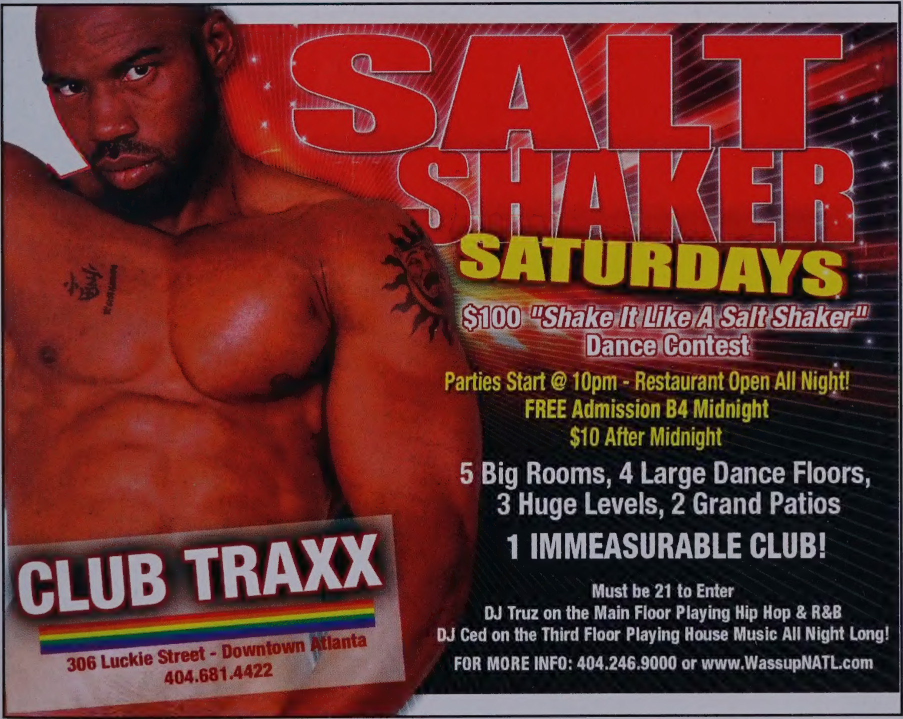

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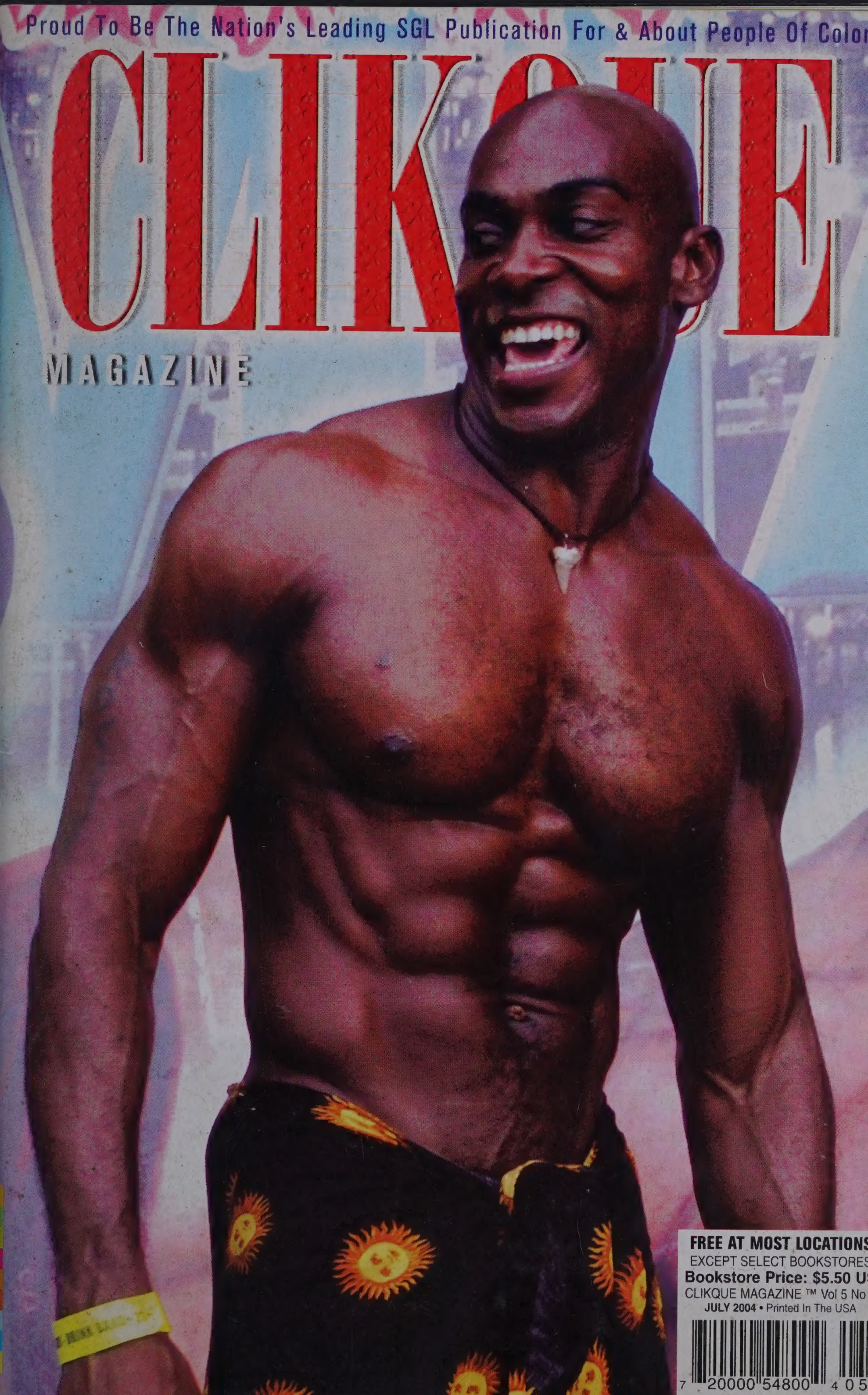

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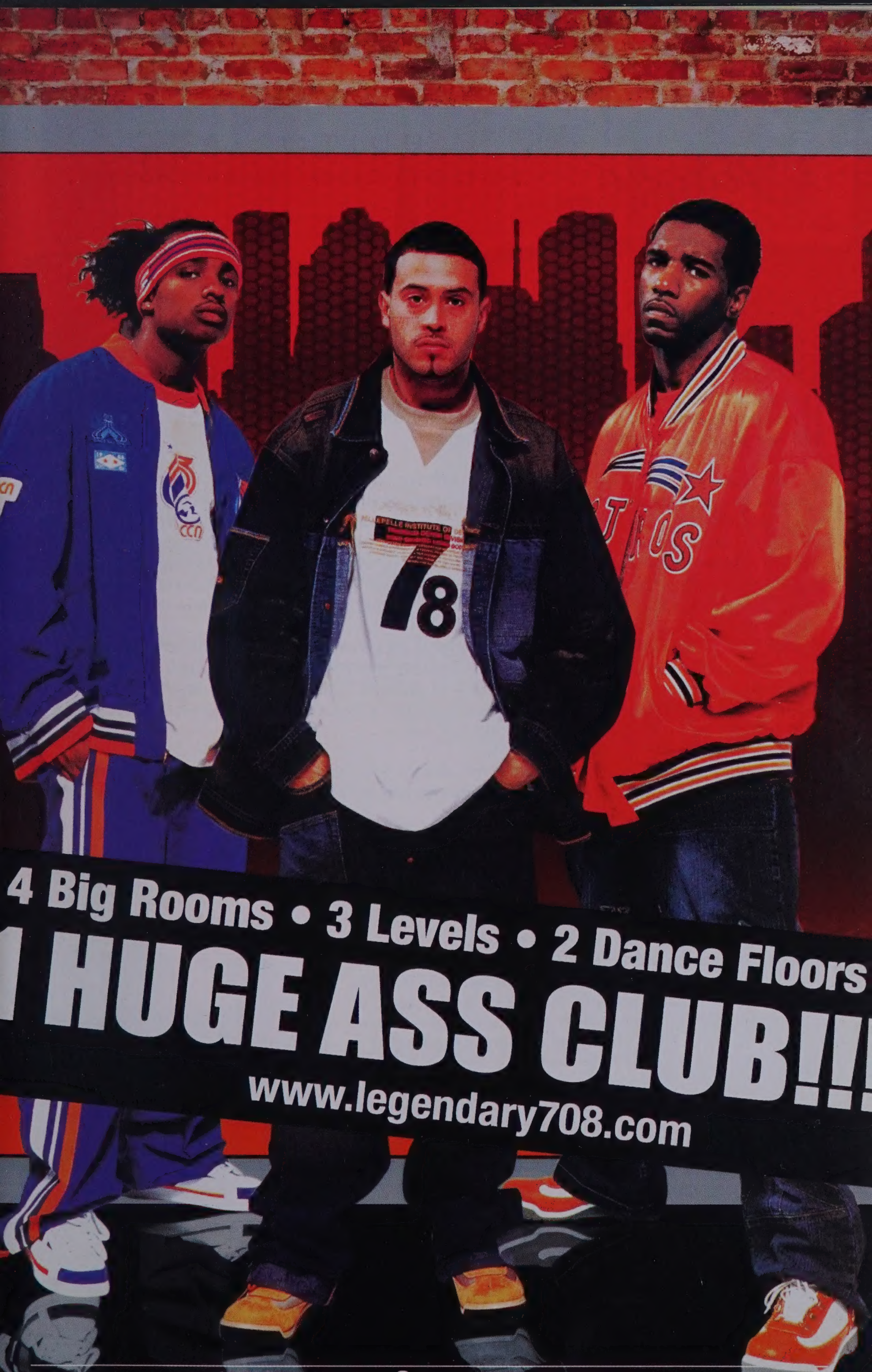
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Clikque MAGAZINE

EDITORIAL

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF DWIGHT POWELL

Second Chances

Rarely, are we given a second chance to make a good "first impression". Just recently, after hosting thousands of people from around the country at Sizzle 2004 in Miami, I realized that I was granted just that. A second chance.

You are reading, what is now our fifth consecutive issue since returning from a two-year hiatus. You have welcomed us back into your hearts and for that I am very appreciative. I was going to write about a different topic in this issue, until I read an article written by Lewis Nicholson (on page 8) in which he shared with us very personal feelings and experiences. After reading that article, I realized that he and I had experienced some rather similar turn of events in our lives over the past few years. Unlike him, I didn't have a complete breakdown, but my spirit, drive, energy, and always positive outlook was at it's all time lowest.

In mid 2001, Clikque Magazine was at the top of its game. We were the nation's number one black gay publication. We sponsored the hottest events and had managed to acquire an extremely favorable reputation. In the blink of an eye, I allowed tons of negative energies to change all that. Without getting too personal, since I often keep a lot in, I would just say that "S.A.D." and bad relationships got the best of me.

By November of 2001, I had lost most of what I had worked so hard to attain at Clikque Magazine, and Banjee Magazines. I left Hotlanta and took refuge in the Sunshine State, in an attempt to find myself.

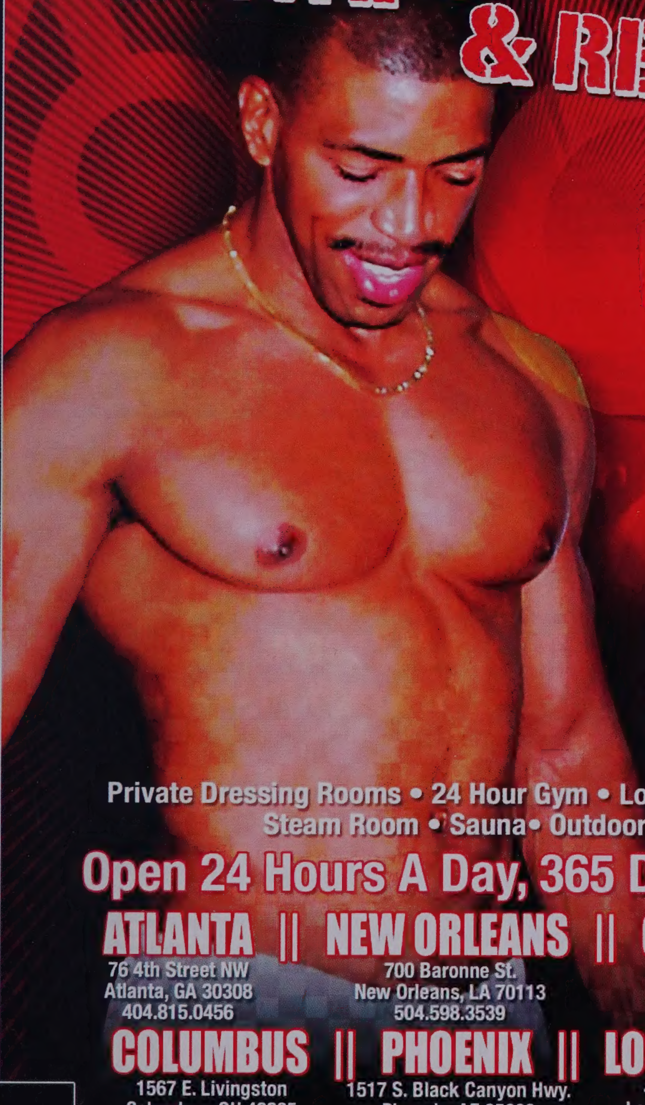
Now, two and a half years later, Clikque Magazine is again atop of the black gay media market, Banjee Magazine is back in it's previous role as America's leading erotic male publication. And Sizzle Miami has proven to be one of America's must experience events.

None of this came easily, I have learned a lot over the years. Sometimes we need to hit rock bottom to really appreciate what we have and to recognize who our true friends are. People often say, that we should never burn bridges, because they may need to be traveled again in the future.

For the most part, I do agree with that statement. However, while we should not burn those bridges, we must sever ties with some of the people and things we met across those bridges. We must learn to say enough, when we have had enough.

And the rejuvenated, more positive me is doing just that. Thank you black gay America for giving me that second chance.

Dwight Powell



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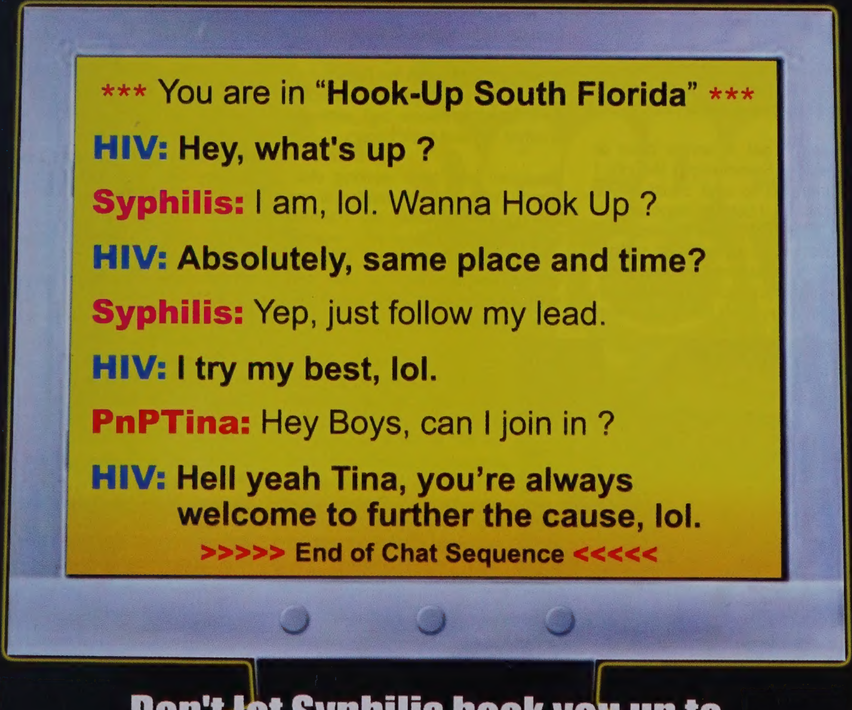

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HIV: **Absolutely, same place and time?**

Syphilis: Yep, just follow my lead.

HIV: **I try my best, lol.**

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HIV: **Hell yeah Tina, you're always welcome to further the cause, lol.**

>>>>> **End of Chat Sequence** <<<<<

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Beyond Words

By Lewis J. Nicholson

Sometimes in our lives we encounter unexpected events that change the course of said lives forever. These are often positive occurrences but in many instances they have a negative impact on our existence.

Last year I got a severe dose of depression. Something, I thought I was immune to and could never comprehend. I used to laugh at girls who claimed they were depressed. I would think to myself, just go get some dick or ass and that will solve everything. But I got a true wake up call and today I am fully aware that depression is real not mild, or imagined but very real.

The interesting thing about it is that we do not recognize depression until it has consumed us and we are at the point of almost no return.

Last August, I lost my mentor and very close friend. During our five year friendship he taught me many things that I continue to live by today. I knew he was dying but neither he nor I wanted to accept that and up to the point of his death, we never discussed it. One thing is for sure though, that after I eulogized him in a glowing ceremony I tried to go on with my life like his death was just another daily event.

Two weeks later I competed in the Mr. Continental contest and it was on final night that I realized that I needed my friend Logan Holt and that I had not mourned him enough. I was in denial and it all came upon me during the talent segment of the final night competition.

I returned home and quit my job at the night-club (The Palace) my friend owned where I was also a manager. Going into the Palace had become very stressful as I expected to receive a phone call with yet another request from Logan.

So, I left and tried working elsewhere. Within three weeks of my leaving The Palace, my Fashion Editor, Justice Felani who worked with me on Glitter and Glamma Magazines decided he had had enough of this world and he too was leaving.

I remember Andre Givenchy doing a memorial for Justice at the mini ball that Wednesday night and there is little I want to remember after that. During the weeks that followed I had no desire to live. I could not get out of bed except to go to the Lions Den where I was a Bartender on Sundays. I put on my Sunday face and very few knew that I was just a functioning depressed person. I lost my car to the repo-man even though my brother was willing to make the payments. I was late on every bill even when I had the money. I was lonely and alone. When you have spent the last five years having lunch, working and promoting events with someone their leaving creates an unimaginable void.

Logan used to remind me daily how promiscuous we were as gay men and after a while my friend Robert and I would refer to each other as promiscuous. I miss those days.
Near the end of last year my family who insisted I move to Florida to get my life together or to fade away rescued me.

Well, today I am pleased to say that South Florida has been really good for me. My life is back on track; I no longer want to just die. I am working three jobs. I like all my jobs. I am back at Clikque Magazine. My relationship with Dwight Powell has been mended and I now work for him as his Business Manager. I am also working with the men over at Club Boi, Miami's best Gay Black nightclub. I am also serving popcorn at a movie theater where I get to hire, promote and fire nice young boys. Well I hire girls too since the beauty of women I will always appreciate. I make time to smell the roses and I go to Haulover Beach to sun my bare ass and swim in the nude from time to time.

I have some relationships to mend, but in the mean time I am working on surviving. I am not sure to what I need to credit my recovery, but I do know that my dear friend Rodolfo's dismissal of me from my lease was the first step in my recovery. It could have meant the end of me but it turned out to mean a new beginning.

On my ride to Florida, which I spent crying, laughing and reminiscing with my friend Rodney who drove me down from Atlanta, I realized that while I was still breathing I had to do something worthwhile with my life.

I hope that anyone that was hurt by my depression and decision to leave Atlanta will forgive me. I promise I will make it up to you guys.

My mother Niesha Dupree gave me a pep talk and led me back to the four agreements. I go back to the agreements weekly to remind myself of my purpose in life, which is to always do my best, and to be impeccable with my word.

Today as I type this column I am looking forward to lunch with my new found friend and the many opportunities that await me. If you find yourself losing you grip give me a holler so that we can prevent you from sliding as far down as I did.

As the summer continues, please remember to enjoy life and good health while you have it and ***don't forget to love like you have never been hurt and dance like no one is watching.***

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CDC Initiative Criticized

by groups left out of funding

Agency launches effort to keep people with HIV from spreading disease

Robert Janssen, director of HIV prevention programs for the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, said the federal agency wants to focus more attention on teaching people who are already HIV-positive how to avoid spreading the virus

Two-thirds of the $49 million the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention recently allocated to community-based organizations to fight the spread of HIV will fund programs targeting those already infected, a sea change in the way the federal health agency battles the virus.

The CDC announced the funding awards on May 21 as part of its "Advancing HIV Prevention Initiative." That effort, first announced in April 2003, calls for tailoring prevention messages to HIV-positive people to keep them from spreading the disease.

The traditional emphasis on safe-sex messages for HIV-negative individuals created a health and information gap for those already living with the virus, said Robert Janssen, director of the CDC's HIV prevention programs.

But some agencies that have received CDC funds in the past criticized the agency's shift in strategy and funding, dubbed "Prevention for Positives."

"Prevention dollars that we desperately need are being squandered by funding an ideological prevention strategy that doesn't work," said Jason Riggs, interim communications director for the Stop AIDS Project in San Francisco. "What we are seeing in effect is a dismantling of HIV-prevention programs for people who are negative and want to stay negative."

S.F. AIDS GROUP TARGETED

The Stop AIDS Project has been in the crosshairs of conservative lawmakers for the last three years. It was the target of various federal audits and investigations over what critics call its "obscene" prevention programs targeting gay and bisexual men.

Riggs said Stop AIDS Project received $225,000 from the CDC during the last five-year grant cycle in 1999.

"Even though in every investigation the CDC has found nothing wrong in our accounting system or programs, we feared ideology would beat out science as it has in almost every health issue across the board with this administration," he said.

Some 142 groups will share the $49 million in grants. While the amount of funding remained about the same as in 1999, Janssen said, the number of groups dropped from 189. Of the organizations that received money last month, 67 were funded in the past by the CDC.

The CDC decreased the number of groups funded "because in consultations with members of different communities they felt the award size needed to be larger in order for their programs to be effective," Janssen said.

A total of 530 groups applied for funding this year. The amount each organization receives will not be finalized until July 1, but will average about $345,000.

Metro Teen AIDS, which provides prevention messages to youth in Washington, D.C., has reduced its staff by three employees since officials learned they lost funding under the CDC's new approach.

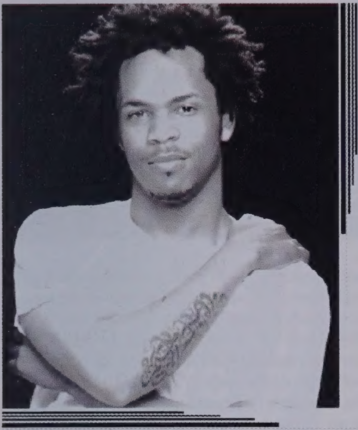
"I think that when we're talking about adolescents, the majority of that money needs to go to basic HIV prevention information," said Adam Tenner, executive director of Metro Teen AIDS. "I think the CDC is moving in the direction of telling you how to prevent HIV after you already have it."

Janssen and other CDC officials hope that delivering prevention messages to HIV-positive people will discourage sexual practices that put others at risk for contracting the disease.

The CDC also targeted regions in which HIV is most concentrated with its funding, along with providing grants to four faith-based groups. Janssen could not provide the names of the organizations.

Critics said the CDC is missing the mark with its new approach.

"The national and regional trends aren't always reflective of what's happening at the local level, and so we're very concerned local data was not included in the funding strategies," Riggs said.



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Why Reagan ignored AIDS

By Michael Bronski

President Ronald Reagan
1911 - 2004

College students born during the Reagan years ask: How could the president have done so little for so long while so many died? It wasn't as simple as homophobia. It was politics.

For the past two months I've been teaching a course titled "Plagues and Politics: The Impact of AIDS on U.S. Culture" at Dartmouth College, and I've spent an enormous amount of time thinking about the AIDS pandemic. So when the political flap over the historical accuracy of The Reagans—the CBS miniseries on the lives and White House years of Ronald and Nancy Reagan that was pulled from the network's lineup and dumped on its sister cable outlet, Showtime—hit the headlines, I was intrigued to see that one of the main complaints against the series was that the original script accused President Reagan of religious intolerance and prejudice against homosexuals. In a scene in which Nancy Reagan asks her husband to do something to help people with AIDS, he responds by answering, "Those who live in sin shall die in sin."

Elizabeth Egloff, who authored the script, has conceded that Reagan's answer is a fictionalized invention, and indeed, Reagan rarely employed religious sentiments or metaphors in political situations. The show's critics have made a strong, salient point: Having Reagan use the language of conservative Christianity to explain why he and his administration did almost nothing for the first seven years of the AIDS epidemic is historically irresponsible and highly misleading.

From everything that we can ascertain from the historical record, Reagan's religious background, feelings, or beliefs had nothing to do with the political response to the AIDS epidemic. Rather, his appalling lack of leadership and vision—which led directly to enormous setbacks for HIV/AIDS research, discrimination against people with AIDS, and the lack of any comprehensive outreach for prevention or education work, thus adding to the already staggering tally of deaths—was a product of indifference, disdain, self-imposed ignorance, and a political capitulation to the rising wave of a new, staunchly reactionary and religious Republican constituency that was to reshape not only the party but the state of American politics.

As we read about and discuss the history of the American AIDS epidemic in class, my students—all Reagan babies, born between 1981 and 1985—are often dumbfounded when faced with simple facts. Although AIDS was first reported in the medical and popular press in 1981, it was only in October 1987 that Reagan publicly spoke about the epidemic in a major policy address. By the end of that year 59,572 AIDS cases had been reported and 27,909 of those women and men had died. How could this happen, they ask? Didn't he see that this was an ever-expanding epidemic? How could he not say anything? Do anything?

But the public scandal over the Reagan administration's reaction to AIDS is complex and goes much deeper, far beyond the commander in chief's refusal to speak out about the epidemic. Reagan understood that a great deal of his power resided in a broad base of born-again Christian Republican conservatives who embraced a deeply reactionary social agenda of which a virulent, demonizing homophobia was a central tenet. In the media men such as Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell articulated these sentiments that portrayed gay people as diseased sinners and promoted the idea that AIDS was a punishment from God and that the gay rights movement had to be stopped. In the Republican Party zealous right-wingers such as Rep. William Dannemeyer of California and Sen. Jesse Helms of North Carolina hammered home this message. In the Reagan White House, people such as Secretary of Education William Bennett and Gary Bauer, Reagan's domestic policy adviser, worked to enact it in the Administration's policies.

What did this mean in practical terms? Most important, AIDS research was chronically underfunded. When doctors at the Centers for

CONTINUES ON PAGE 58

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COP Beat

Kan. court to hear appeal of gay teen sentenced to 17 years

TOPEKA, Kan. – The Kansas Supreme Court last week agreed to hear an appeal on behalf of a gay teenager who received a 17-year prison sentence for consensual oral sex, the ACLU said in a news release. Matthew Limon so far has served more than four years in prison, more than three times longer than the maximum sentence he would have received in the case if he were heterosexual, according to the ACLU. A week after Limon's 18th birthday, he performed consensual oral sex on another male teenager, who was almost 15, the ACLU said in the news statement. Limon was convicted under the Kansas "Romeo and Juliet" law, which provides lighter sentences for heterosexual teens involving sex younger teens, but specifically excludes gay sex, according to the ACLU. "The only reason Matthew Limon is still in prison today is because he's gay," Tamara Lange, a staff attorney with the ACLU Lesbian & Gay Rights Project, which represents Limon, said in the news release. The Kansas Supreme Court likely will hear arguments in the case no earlier than August.

S.C. man acquitted in stabbing death of allegedly abusive lover

ROCK HILL, S.C. (AP) – Richard Lee Hinton was acquitted in the stabbing death of Tyrone Hammonds, a man Hinton called his lover. Hinton testified he stabbed Hammonds in self-defense after Hammonds punched him and attacked him with a knife last October. At trial, both sides concurred that Hammonds chased Hinton down the street before the stabbing. The prosecution said Hinton stabbed Hammonds then ran to avoid arrest. Several people said during the trial that Hammonds was abusive during the couple's two years together. Hinton testified he never fought back until the night of Hammonds' death. Prosecutor Phil Smith said Hammonds' family was hurt by the verdict. "I knew it would be a difficult battle," he said. Hinton's attorney, B.J. Barrowclough, said helping free Hinton "is the most satisfying thing I've ever done in a courtroom."

Fla. man convicted in gay murder has his mouth taped in court

DELAND, Fla. (AP) – A Daytona Beach man who was convicted of fatally beating a retired banker even though another man confessed to the crime had his mouth taped during his sentencing hearing last week after he repeatedly said "I didn't do it." Circuit Judge S. James Foxman ordered the taping after Richard England, 32, made repeated outbursts proclaiming his innocence, some directed at the victim's family, before the jury recommended a death sentence. Foxman is scheduled to sentence England in July. England and his friend Michael Douglas Jackson beat Howard "Cooter" Wetherell, 71, to death with a fire poker in his shower in 2001, then robbed his condominium, said prosecutors, who maintained England killed Wetherell out of anti-gay hatred. Jackson, who said he lived with the victim for about a month before their relationship soured, initially told officials that he and England had killed Wetherell, and agreed to testify against his friend. But Jackson, 21, later changed his story, taking sole responsibility for the murder. He has pleaded guilty to second-degree murder.

Gay N.J. policeman files bias suit alleging he was denied promotion

HALEDON, N.J. (AP) – A police sergeant has sued the borough and several officials, claiming he was passed over for promotion because he is gay. Sgt. James Len filed suit last week in state Superior Court against the borough, Mayor Ken Pengitore, Council member Ayman Mamkej and Police Chief Harold Engold Jr. All three defendants said they had not seen the suit and declined to comment when reached by the Herald News of West Paterson. Len is seeking punitive and compensatory damages, claiming he was subjected to a hostile work environment because of his sexual orientation. He claims officers rigged the evaluation process to prevent him from being promoted to lieutenant. He also says fellow officers harassed him and made anti-gay comments. Len claims he asked police officials to investigate his allegations of harassment, but was refused, and that disciplinary charges filed against him last year were fabricated to discriminate against him because he is gay.

Family of strangled transgendered teen seeks posthumous name change

FREMONT, Calif. (AP) – The name on the birth certificate was Edward Araujo Jr., but the teenager preferred the first name Gwen. At age 17, before getting a chance to make the name change official, Araujo was beaten and strangled after the people she thought were her friends found out she was biologically male. Last week, Araujo's family asked a court for a posthumous name change to Gwen Amber Rose Araujo. "She's Gwen to me, and I'm her mother," Sylvia Guerrero said outside the courthouse. "This is who she was. She's transgender and she's Gwen." Superior Court Commissioner Thomas Surh called the request "a novel situation" and said he would let Guerrero know his decision in about a month. Araujo's family said she had used the name Gwen for years, convinced from an early age that her sexual and biological identities conflicted.

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SIX FEET UNDER
HBO

'Six Feet' still alive

The fourth season of the HBO hit 'Six Feet Under' brings more gay characters and quirky family dynamics.

LEAVE IT TO HBO to totally reinvent the TV show promo with its recent notices about "Six Feet Under," which returned for its fourth season at 9 pm., Sunday, June 13.

For months, we've seen this commercial on the channel (and on the Web site www.hbo.com/sixfeetunder) depicting characters from the show walking through an empty supermarket lip-synching to the Nina Simone song "Feeling Good."

There's Keith (Mathew St. Patrick) watching his partner, David (Michael C. Hall), checking out another man. There's Claire (Lauren Ambrose) upsetting a bin full of oranges. And Nate (Peter Krause) is seen floating away, while Brenda (Rachel Griffiths) is walking through the parking lot alone.

Using nothing but music, atmosphere and innuendo, this promo captures the essence

SUNDAYS
9:00 - 10:00 PM ET

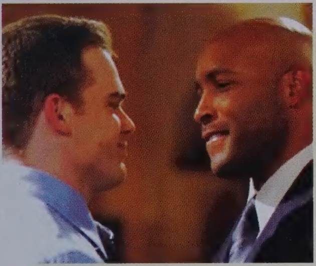
One marriage has come to a tragic end, another is beginning, and a third is on the rocks. At Fisher & Diaz, lives are in flux, as Nate, David, Ruth, Claire and Rico struggle to find their way. What's next? Find out when SIX FEET UNDER kicks off its fourth season SUNDAY, JUNE 13 (9:00-10:00 p.m. ET), with the episode entitled "Falling Into Place," followed by other editions on subsequent Sundays at the same time, exclusively on HBO. In addition, the first three episodes of this season will air back-to-back on Sunday, July 4, beginning at 8:00 p.m.

of each character, offering hints about where last season left off and setting the mood for the coming season.

What would we do without HBO?

AND WHAT WOULD we do without "Six Feet Under," the best series on television.

The fourth season begins where it left off last June – to the minute – which is a bit annoying because it doesn't acknowledge the viewers' time away from the series. Unlike last season's Nate-is-dead-but-not-really beginning, the fourth season starts with Claire, David and Keith in the kitchen of the Fisher & Diaz funeral home after their mother Ruth's (Frances Conroy) hasty marriage to George (James Cromwell).



Upclose With Keith Charles

"When someone sees you as you really are and wants to be with you, that's powerful."

Keith Charles *(right)*, the love of David's life, is charming, handsome and tough - for years he was a gay officer in the LAPD and didn't care who knew it. Being out is important to Keith, and when he and David were first dating it was a major source of conflict between them. Keith was continually frustrated because David couldn't - or wouldn't - be open about his homosexuality. So Keith broke up with David and began a live-in relationship with Eddie, a handsome emergency medical technician David referred to as "Mr. Fucking Superguy E-R."

But that relationship was short-lived. When Keith's drug-addicted sister left town suddenly, Keith brought her nine-year-old daughter, Taylor, into his and Eddie's home. Eddie moved out shortly thereafter and Keith and David, who had remained friends, started seeing each other again. Eventually, Keith asked David - who had developed a close rapport with Taylor - to move in with him.

Things were not easy for the new nuclear family. Keith believes that life is about "striving for perfection," which puts a lot of pressure on him - and everyone close to him. His powerful sense of obligation caused him to badger his sister into rehab; but later, when she killed a man in a hit-and-run accident, Keith turned her in to the authorities. When he shot and killed a man in the line of duty, Keith became a chronic insomniac and lashed out at David whenever he tried to talk about it. In another incident, Keith lost his temper while trying to subdue a suspect, beating the man and subsequently being suspended for it. Not long after, against David's wishes, he sent Taylor to live with his parents in San Diego and quit his job.

Although he and David entered therapy together, their relationship once again bottomed out and David left. Although Keith still loves David and has asked him not to give up on him, it's far from certain that their relationship will survive.

On the Big Screen

SPIDERMAN 2

RELEASE 6/30/04

It's been two years since mild-mannered Peter Parker (Tobey Maguire) first began struggling with "the gift and the curse," and in Spider-Man 2, he's still coming to terms with his dual identity as the web-slinging crime superhero Spider-Man. Now Peter's in college, and his relationships with the people he cares most about are crumbling. He wants to reveal his secret identity to Mary Jane (Kirsten Dunst), his friendship with Harry Osborn is stressed by Harry's growing hatred of Spider-Man, and Peter's Aunt May has fallen on hard times. When a new foe, Dr. Otto Octavius (Alfred Molina), appears, Peter and Spidey face a new challenge.

I, ROBOT RELEASE 7/16/04

I, Robot - The story, set in 2035, focuses on a robot-hating detective named Del Spooner (Will Smith) who is investigating the murder of Dr. Miles Hogenmiller, an employee at U.S. Robotics. As strange as it may seem, a robot named Sonny is the prime suspect; for Sonny to have committed the crime would be a violation of the basic laws of robotics. Dr. Susan Calvin, a psychologist, is helping Spooner in his investigation.

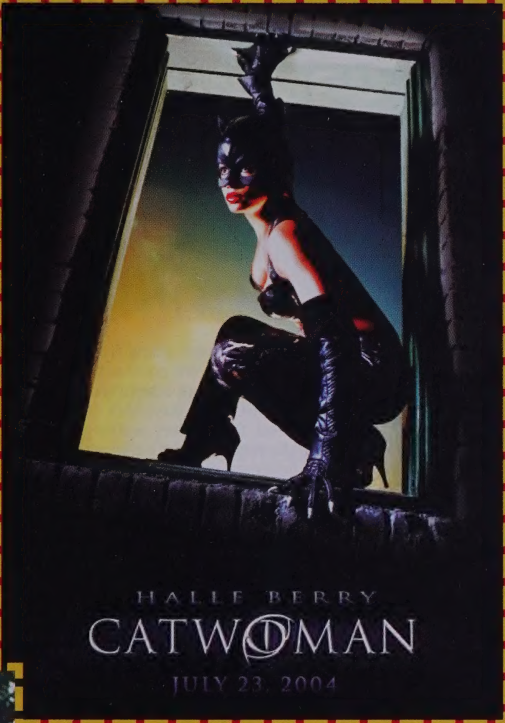
BOURNE IDENTITY RELEASE 7/23/04

In this sequel to the original Matt Damon thriller, the Chinese vice premier is killed by someone claiming to be assassin Jason Bourne. But the identity is just a cover for CIA agent David Webb, so it's clear to the U.S. government that someone else is assuming the Bourne identity. Webb is recruited to discover who's behind the killing to avert a scandal that imperils international peace.

CAT WOMAN

RELEASE 7/23/04

Graphic artist Patience Philips (Halle Berry) is murdered by the stooges of Avenal Beauty, the cosmetics company she works for, when she discovers the company's dark secret. An Egyptian mau cat whose life she saved brings her back to life, after which she assumes the identity of the titular feline superhero, seeking vengeance upon the evil head honchos who run Avenal (Sharon Stone, Lambert Wilson).



THE MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE

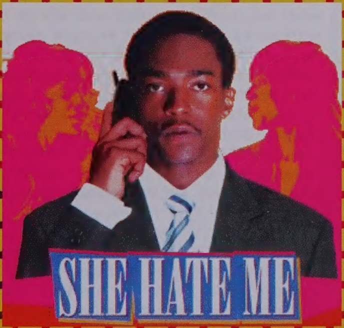
RELEASE 7/30/04

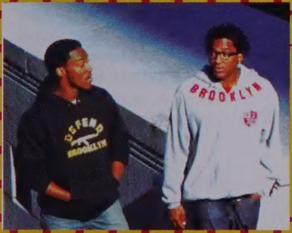
Denzel Washington and Liev Schreiber play two U.S. soldiers taken prisoner and brainwashed into becoming unwitting assassins by the enemy during the first Gulf War. They return home as heroes, though Washington's Ben Marco is troubled by dreams and vague memories of his brainwashing. Eventually, Marco remembers what has happened to him and tries to get to Schreiber's Raymond Shaw, who is running for office, to convince him of what he's remembered.

SHE HATE ME

RELEASE 7/30/04

When biotech executive Jack Armstrong (Anthony Mackie) blows the whistle on his bosses, he's left without a career. Desperate to make money, he accepts an offer from his former girlfriend (who's now a lesbian): help her get pregnant and earn $10,000. Soon, gay women looking to have children begin lining up to pay Jack for his services.





By Daryl Moch

Nubian Spirit

Becoming Your Ultimate Self: Go With The Flow

Harambee (Let us come together):

Beloved, most of our lives are spent going from crisis to crisis or thing to thing. We constantly seek out the next thrill or the next adventure. For far too many of us we live from paycheck to paycheck. Those who find themselves walking on a more spiritual path often go from religious ceremony to religious ceremony; and the strong and dedicated community minded activists of us go from event to event. Unfortunately the end result always is still wanting for the "next" thing. Did you or do you find yourself unfulfilled by the things, people, and possessions you have gathered in your life? You are not alone.

Since our earliest days we have been socialized to seek stuff outside of ourselves to fulfill the inner most desires of our souls and spirits. It often takes a lifetime of searching and gathering to determine that none of this satisfies, truly, the greatest of our yearnings. And then as if the searching was not enough we seek to avoid and correct problems and crisis as they come. In fact, we often work hard to avert a crisis before it can occur. In the meantime the seasons pass, the flowers bloom and fade away, people are born, age and transition all before we realize it and suddenly we look back and find ourselves 10, 15, 20 years older and the memories of those years have faded away.

So for a moment, this day, relax, let go, and just flow. Go with the flow of life. Enjoy the rhythms of life that surround you. Feel the breeze or the rain on your face. Smell the flowers, feel the sun, taste the food and enjoy life. What we often fail to realize is that no matter what we do life happens and will go on with or without us. So why not enjoy it along the way? Put the "things" that are happening to you into perspective- it's not going to kill you (and if it is then getting clarity and stopping it would be an appropriate response to the chaos). Let life happen and go with it. Sometimes the things that seem out of place only "seem" that way because we are out of focus. Sometimes being late may have kept you from an accident- so don't stress.

Now, I'm not telling you to be lax or nonchalant. What I am saying is to free yourself from the stress of being "right" or "perfect" all the time. Recognize that sometimes "right" and "perfect" are illusions and that just where you are right now- just who you are right now is "right" and "perfect". It's ok not to worry. Do your best - in everything that you do and that will be the right thing and the perfect thing. Go with the Flow. Don't try to force anything. From issues at work or school, to relationships, to battling forces in "high" places - just go with the flow. Life happens and the question is will life happen to you or with you? Because it is going to happen, but where do you want to be in the process? Do you always want to be catching up, trying to get ahead, robbing De'shon to pay Quita? Relax, let go, and flow- with life.

I was watching a movie the other day "Sunshine State" and an old man was telling a young teenager who couldn't swim in the ocean how to go with the flow. The young man said he couldn't swim in the ocean because there was an "undertow." The old man said, "There will always be an under tow... the secret is to not fight it..." but to go with it. He suggested that instead of working hard to stay on top and fight the natural ebb and flow of the ocean one should work with the current and allow the flow to enhance your efforts. In life this is also true. And this is my point. If we could stop fighting the forces of nature we could get into the natural rhythm of life and allow that rhythm to energize our efforts and move us along successfully. Just consider it- in every aspect of your life.

Meditate on these thoughts:
I move with the natural flow of the universe. There is no crisis or situation that can over take me or over power me. I am one with the divine energy of life and I allow myself to go with the flow. I free myself from the belief that I must live in stress or chaos. Instead I choose to live in peace and harmony with the forces of life that are here to guide me not hold me back. There is nothing that I cannot achieve when I stop, get focused, and recognize the greatness within me. I only want what is best for me and those things that are not "right" or "perfect" for me will not come to me or bother me. I no longer worry about being "right" or "perfect" because that which is will be and I am free from anxiety about it. Today, right now, I relax, let go, and flow. I am flowing with the natural rhythm of life. I am flowing. I am flowing. I am flowing. I am becoming my ultimate self.

Peace and Blessings.

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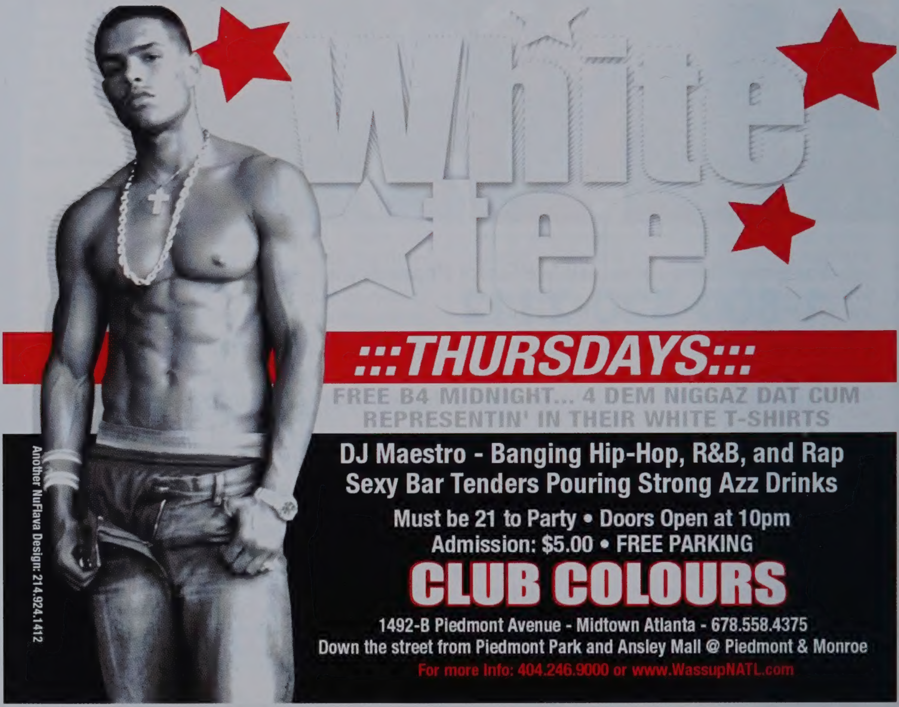
African-Americans & Coming Out

Coming out can be one of the most challenging events in your life, but also one of the most rewarding. Being attracted to someone of the same sex or understanding that your gender identity is different from your biological sex can be frightening. Some African Americans feel pressure to prioritize their different identities.

"Perhaps the most maddening question anyone can ask me is, 'Which do you put first: being black or being a woman, being black or being gay?' wrote Barbara Smith, author of "Blacks and Gays Healing the Great Divide" (Dangerous Liaisons: Blacks, Gays, and the Struggle for Equality. Brandt, Eric Editor, New Press, 1999). "The underlying assumption is that I should prioritize one of my identities because one of them is actually more important than the rest or that I must arbitrarily choose one of them over the others for the sake of acceptance in one particular community."

For many African Americans, coming out involves additional cultural factors that make the process more challenging but no less rewarding. Some of those challenges include associations with often homophobic churches, strong family foundations that emphasize heterosexuality, homophobia in the black community and racism in the broader gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community. Thanks, however, to brave



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GLBT African-American activists and their allies effecting change in the church and the community, there is more support and acceptance than ever before.

Religion

The church has traditionally informed, influenced and guided the day-to-day lives of many African Americans. "The black church is not just a place of spirituality and enlightenment, but a place of empowerment for African Americans," says David Neale, founder of Black Lavender Resources (www.blacklavender.com), a consulting firm specializing in diversity within the LGBT community.

Bishop Kwabena Rainey Cheeks, of Inner Light Ministries in Washington, D.C., agrees. "Spirituality is almost impossible to separate from black life," says Cheeks. "The church is a stabilizing force and a place to connect not just to God but to community, as well."

Yet some in those churches have been unwelcoming to people with a different sexual orientation or gender identity.

"The black church, the oldest institution and pillar of the black community, has historically dictated the community's stance on homosexuality – either you don't talk about it, or you condemn it," says Lynn d Johnson, online editor of Vibe Magazine and adjunct professor at Metropolitan College of New York. It is daunting to come out only to face the fear and misunderstanding of society in general, but many GLBT African Americans must face that same ignorance within the very institution that has for so many been the centerpiece of their community. Although no largely African-American denomination has issued a public statement outlining its position on homosexuality, the stances of individual churches and ministers are revealed on Sundays.

"The motto of the black church seems to be 'don't name it, don't claim it,'" says Mandy Carter, a founder of the progressive organization Southerners on New Ground. This informal church dictum has led many GLBT African Americans to find and create other places to exercise their spirituality.

Family

Coming out to family is often one of the most difficult experiences for a gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender person. And for African Americans, it may be particularly challenging, says Sean Camargo, adviser for Diversity and Communities of Color on the staff of Parents, Friends and Family of Lesbians and Gays, (www.pflag.org).

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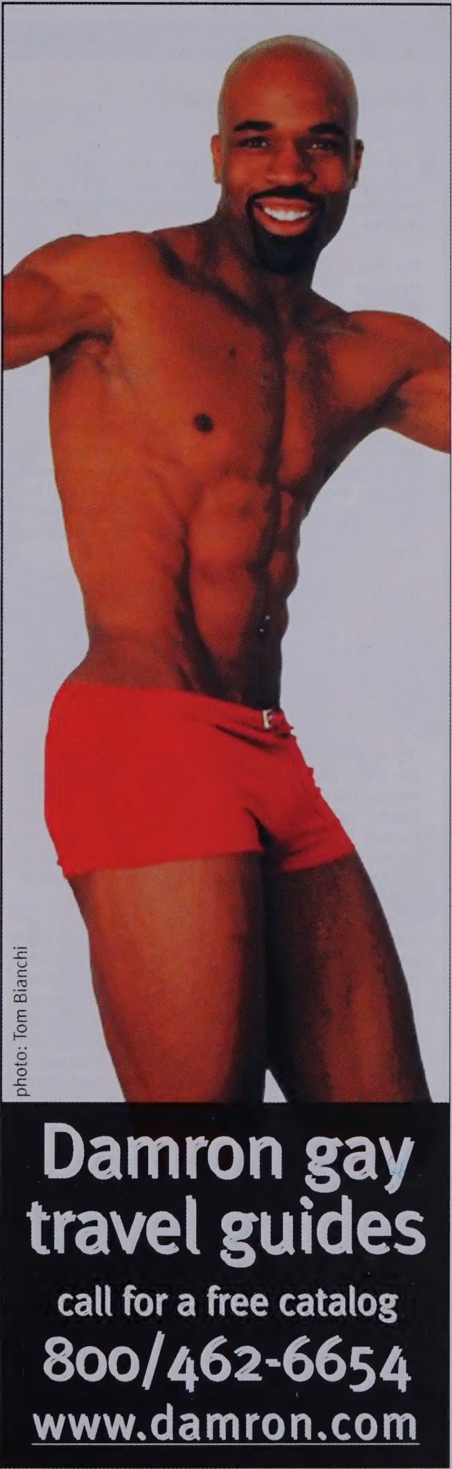

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

"The black family unit is a very strong one," says Carmago. "In a world where racism is still far too prevalent, the family is a haven, a stronghold of support."

For many there is no place in this fortress of strength for a "weakness," as homosexuality is often viewed. Parents sometimes think that having a gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender child is detrimental and damaging to the black family and will negatively affect the whole African-American community.

As the late African-American lesbian author Audre Lorde described it: "Within Black communities where racism is a living reality, differences among us often seem dangerous and suspect. The need for unity is often misnamed as a need for homogeneity." (Sister Outsider: Essays and Poems. Crossing Press, 1984)

Despite the challenges that coming out in the black family presents, many GLBT African Americans choose to share their orientation or identity with their relatives. Being honest with your family is an important step in getting all parts of your life to fit together. One of the most important things is to give them time to process the information.

"My mom thought at first that I could no longer be the torch bearer and political leader in the community that she had expected me to be," recalls Donna Payne, constituency organizer for the Human Rights Campaign. "But as she came to accept and understand who I was, she was able to see that my role as torch bearer was still just as important."

Just as you may have needed information and support in coming out, know that your family may also need more information and support. "For Those We Love" is a program founded specifically to support African-American families of GLBT people. William Beale of Washington, D.C., the father of a gay son and founder of For Those We Love, was involved in PFLAG but felt that others would feel more comfortable in an African American-only support group.

"I'd see one other black person at the local PFLAG meeting, but they'd never return. My guess was that they didn't feel comfortable 'airing their dirty laundry' in that setting, says Beale. "Homosexuality is such a private issue that some feel it should only be shared or discussed with others like themselves."

Society

Many people see the GLBT community as a microcosm of society, in that it faces the same economic, racial, domestic and class issues as the rest of the American public. It is understandable, then, that similar challenges with social issues will exist. Some African Americans don't feel comfortable or welcome in the broader GLBT community or movement that many view as historically white-focused.

"Whether it's intentional or not, when GLBT organizations are predominately white, it discourages people of color. They look at the faces, don't see anyone like themselves and think, 'I have no place here,'" says Mandy Carter, African-American lesbian activist. Carter points to the growth of black pride celebrations as evidence that African Americans need to see other people like themselves. "Some people think that having black prides is somehow divisive, but I see it as another way to affirm the still too frequent invisibility of same-gender-loving blacks."

GLBT African Americans have been virtually invisible in history. Without Bayard Rustin there would have been no 1963 March on Washington for Civil Rights, but most history books rarely mention him and they almost never acknowledge that he was gay. The names of deceased singer Ma Rainey, pro baseball player Glenn Burke and the late Rep. Barbara Jordan, D-Texas, might be found in history books but not their sexual orientation. Telling their stories is a powerful way to educate others and inspire young African Americans who are coming to terms with their sexual orientation.

During the coming out process, it's important to know you are not the only one, and for many African Americans this is a challenge since images of GLBT people in the media or entertainment world rarely show GLBT people of color.

Being African American and coming out as gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender — or same gender loving — may be an extremely challenging experience, but many find that it is unexpectedly rewarding. You not only free yourself from the confinement of the closet, but you also free others from their ignorance about issues related to sexual orientation or gender identity. The presence of open gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender African Americans in the church and within the family will be key to changing the homophobic atmosphere in those institutions. "If we are going to change things, we have to become visible," says HRC's Payne. You will find that coming out is not a one-time event, but rather a lifelong journey. Browse some resources to help take you, your friends and your family on that important path.

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Coming Out To Family

Spotlight On David Neale

When David Neale, founder of the Washington, D.C.-based public relations and diversity consulting firm Black Lavender Resources, was growing up, he was often the target of verbal abuse and harassment from classmates for being gay.

"I've never been very masculine, and kids would say derogatory things about my looks or my voice," said Neale, who is now 27 years old. It accelerated in sixth grade when the Eddie Murphy's "Raw" was released. "I don't know how my classmates got in to see this R-rated movie, but they were repeating every gay-bashing joke they had heard," Neale said. "It was hard to take, especially since Eddie Murphy was a successful and popular African American. But some of his success came at the expense of GLBT people."

Neale accepted his sexual orientation when he was 16, while he was attending a racially mixed all-boys Catholic high school in suburban Maryland.

"I was still enduring harassment and decided that I needed to speak with someone about it. I approached my guidance counselor and imagine my shock when his reaction to my news was to come out to me!" Neale remembers.

Neale greatly benefited from having his guidance counselor serve as a mentor and, with his help, paid his first visit to the local gay bookstore and participated in gay youth discussion groups. While Neale was out to himself and his counselor, he still was not out to anyone else - most notably, his family.

"I knew I would eventually tell my mom and dad but didn't have any kind of plan," Neale said. One day his mother was speaking to him about a co-worker she suspected was gay. "She was using derogatory language and I decided to call her on it. I guess my defense of her co-worker raised her suspicions," Neale said.

The next day his mother called him and asked if he was gay. Neale answered her truthfully.

"She told me I had broken her heart and then hung up," he said. This didn't surprise Neale, but he was surprised when three days later she called him again to say that his being gay would not interfere with her love for him.

"I learned later that she had for some reason kept an issue of Newsweek that discussed genetic origins of homosexuality. The article included a number for PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) which my mom called. Through PFLAG, she got in touch with the mother of a gay child in the D.C. area who talked her through it all," said Neale, whose mother continues to be his ally and advocate.

Once, for example, when the school principal refused to publish an article that Neale had written chronicling his experiences being a gay student, she helped him make and distribute 800 copies of the article to his classmates.

Coming out to his father was a different experience. "My dad has always chided me for what he sees as my lack of athleticism, even though I am a dancer," Neale said. "I remember one time I was stretching for a dance class and he came in and said, 'Why don't you go out and throw the ball around or something?' So I knew it would be more challenging. I didn't think he'd be capable of understanding especially as he had such a narrow view of what masculinity was and I had never met those expectations for him."

When he did come out to his father he was met with concern for what others would say.

"My dad wanted to know why I had to tell people. I explained to him that my self esteem was linked to telling that truth about myself, and that he shouldn't care what other people think," Neale recalled.

His relationship with his father remains distant, though Neale explains that it's a combination of factors that contribute to that situation. Overall Neale has found acceptance and love from his family.

"My mother has been one of my biggest supporters from the moment I came out to her," he says with pride. And that has extended to others in his family.

"A few years ago, my grandmother overheard some people in church saying derogatory things about gays," said Neale. "Though she was in her late 80s, she had always been feisty, so she went over to give them a piece of her mind. 'Don't you be saying things like that about gays. My grandson is gay and I love him.' I am truly blessed to have my family."

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By CRAIG WASHINGTON

A Revolutionary Act

This is a commemoration, an appreciation at the cusp of my 20th year of life with HIV. There is a proverbial mixed blessing entailed in feeling like I do and having AIDS. I love being as healthy as I am. I have not yet lost the thrill of living that many of us lose long before we die. I feel fully immersed in the stream, the flow of life. Particularly I love the physicality, the carnal aspect of living. I love being in my body. I am learning to worship it without shame or apology. It is not just a mere vessel for me. While it is not my essence, it is certainly an essential part of me. I have got to love it. Because everyday the HIV that lives in me, threatens to slowly, imperceptibly, nest and divide, to weaken and kill this body of mine. I will not let that happen. And if viruses possess some form of intelligence as some admiring virologists suggest, then I suspect that this virus, my virus understands that. We have reached if not an agreement, then at least an impasse. I cannot get rid of it and it can't get rid of me. We have a very dysfunctional mutual respect for each other.

But because I have been spared many of the severe manifestations of this disease I still have to remind myself to remain vigilant. To get my bloodwork done, to call and find out what my viral load and t-cell counts are, to continue to set up appointments with my case manager. My long-term wellness has made such precautions seem less urgent. Yet I know better. I know that the insurgent that occupies my territories is clever, its patience inexhaustible, its stealth, its greatest weapon. So I must not fall asleep on my own watch. I do things to ensure my survival, informed by both intelligence and, lately far more frequently, instinct.

For instance, I love my body quite tenaciously these days. Remember Baby Suggs soul stirring sermon on the mount from Toni Morrison's "Beloved"; how she admonished black people to never ignore our flesh. "Love it," she commanded. "Yonder," she warned, "they do not love your flesh." Well, I am feeling her these days. I indulge my body in certain disciplines and certain pleasures. To eat...dessert, to sleep late, to run, to exercise, to stretch, to feel the weight that I push against or pull upon, to inhale, to drink, to lick, to suck, to sweat, to smell, to exhale, to touch, to feel, this is to Live. This is life in the body. Each body is as divine as unique as the color Purple and I think it piss God off when we can dwell in our body all the live long day and not "see" it. So I find myself sometimes smelling myself between my own legs. I taste the salt of my own tears. I touch the viscous tissue of my own pungent cum. I listen to the sound, hug the abrupt quake of my own laughter. This is what I will recall when those angels ask me about the beauty of it all. What was it like down here below.

If my focus is highly erotic, it is because the erotic, like nothing else, reminds me of the animal that I am. I am constantly discovering the differences between the erotic and the sexual. During a recent men's retreat, I met a kind and honest brother who asked to spend the night with me without having sex. I agreed but, as there was a mutual attraction, I was afraid that I would not be able to resist the temptation of his body laid up next to mine. How fortunate then that I managed to refrain from any sexual touch and still hold and be held by him in a manner that left me more naked than many of my sexual encounters. I felt safe and loved in the snug and warm wall of his body. I felt no lack or regret and even though I was excited by his touch I felt no need to do anything other than be touched. I never felt more alive or fully open.

I once believed that the erotic and the sexual were one and the same, or that anything considered erotic must serve as the prelude, the invitation to the inevitable sexual act. Without this all-important consummation, then the erot-

Mr. Washington was lovingly raised by Anna and Leon Washington in Queens, New York and has lived in Atlanta for 11 years. His writings have been published in Clikque, Venus, Arise, Washington Blade, Southern Voice, Atlanta Voice, Atlanta Journal-Constitution, He currently serves as the Volunteer and Training Coordinator for Positive Impact, which provides mental health services for people affected by HIV. He can be reached at cwash360@cs.com.

ic is in and of itself, a worthless tease, a ruse not worth getting hot and bothered about. Erotic is the appetizer that whets our appetite for the main course, sex. And sex of course means intercourse; anything else is foreplay; and sex must culminate in ejaculation. Somebody has to come or the deed has been left undone. My boyfriend and I enjoyed hours of delicious sex sometimes without penetration or climax, yet when I shared this with friends, several of them claimed that this was not real sex. Our culture, true to its Judeo Christian roots, not only enforces a thick, dark line between sexuality and spirituality. It also reduces the erotic to serve the singular agenda of intercourse.

One of the reasons why homosexuals are so feared and reviled, is because our sexualities are often not legitimized by procreation, marriage, or monogamy. The values that define sexual pleasure outside of such constructs as base and immoral are the same values that, in these United States, frame the bodies of women; black and brown people; and gays as terrains of unbridled desire and decadence. These bodies must be covered because they are profane; sanitized because they are hopelessly dirty; punished or imprisoned because they are criminal; lynched, raped, mutilated or otherwise destroyed because they are evil and threaten to subvert the dominance of white men or sully the purity of white women. When the voluptuous Janet Jackson flashed her breast before millions, unsanctioned by white media moguls, it was a transgression for which she was swiftly punished. When the virile, dark-skinned 18 year old Marcus Dixon had sex with a 16 year old white girl in Rome, Georgia, it was a transgression for which he was imprisoned with all due haste. When I sucked another mans dick last night, then rode it way into the midnight hour, it was a transgression for which I could be consigned to eternal damnation or dispatched from this life like the 15 year old Sakia Gunn.

Knowing that I am an outlaw by dint of my skin, my sexuality and my serostatus, it is crucial that I celebrate my day-to-day survival in a land that rejects me as if I were an infection it has discovered and hopes to wipe out. But I know that I belong here, triple offender though I may be, that despite the odds, I have managed to survive here. It is my birthright "bought and paid for" by my African ancestors and their American progeny; and my homosexual forebears. Those whom endured and those who perished so that it would be considerably more difficult, though not impossible, for me to be killed or jailed for eyeballing a white woman or balling a man of any color. I am compelled to celebrate.

As black men who love men, we tend to carry heavy loads of shame often masked by addic-

CONTINUES ON PAGE 30

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By CRAIG WASHINGTON

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

tions and distorted self images. We are usually served by well-intentioned organizations which don't have a clue about how we see ourselves and where our power and resiliency lies, that we are not merely walking pathologies that are served by catchy messages with hop hop soundtracks or mud cloth graphics. How do we reach the sensual salvation we seek when we are forced to love on the minefield that the brilliant Charles Stephens characterized in the seminal anthology "Think Again"? It is, I think, an unanswerable question and yet we must ask it. One of the most powerful ways for me to exalt the improbable triumph of my drawing breath is to fully embrace my own body. To kiss and trace every warrior mark whether or not it was earned or deserved. As a teenager, I often felt embarrassed by my desires and what or who, either innocently or deliberately, aroused them. I did not wait to relinquish that shame before I started having sex with men. But no paramour however skilled or compassionate could hope to love away the stains engrained beneath my skin. This is my work and I am so commissioned for life.

There was a point, shortly after becoming infected, when sex was no longer sexy to me. After all it was the very thing that got me into this mess. I was afraid to pee much less to have sex. I was so preoccupied with the fear of infecting someone, or someone finding out, or not getting hard, that the first time afterward I could not perform. Well I met this one brother who told me that he was positive as well. And we did it. And it was good. It was so good that the morning after, I fixed him an exceptional breakfast including apricot jam and toast as Nina Simone suggested. And after he left, I took the day off so I could take time to reflect on the experience. I didn't want to let go just yet of what had just happened and act as if nothing had changed. I wanted to savor it. I was not in love. I do not even remember his name. But I remember that he gave me something precious. He reminded me of my right to life, to a corporeal, sexual life. My flesh. I have got to love it. Do not forget to love your flesh. Just love it.

"Black Men Loving Black Men Is The Revolutionary Act"
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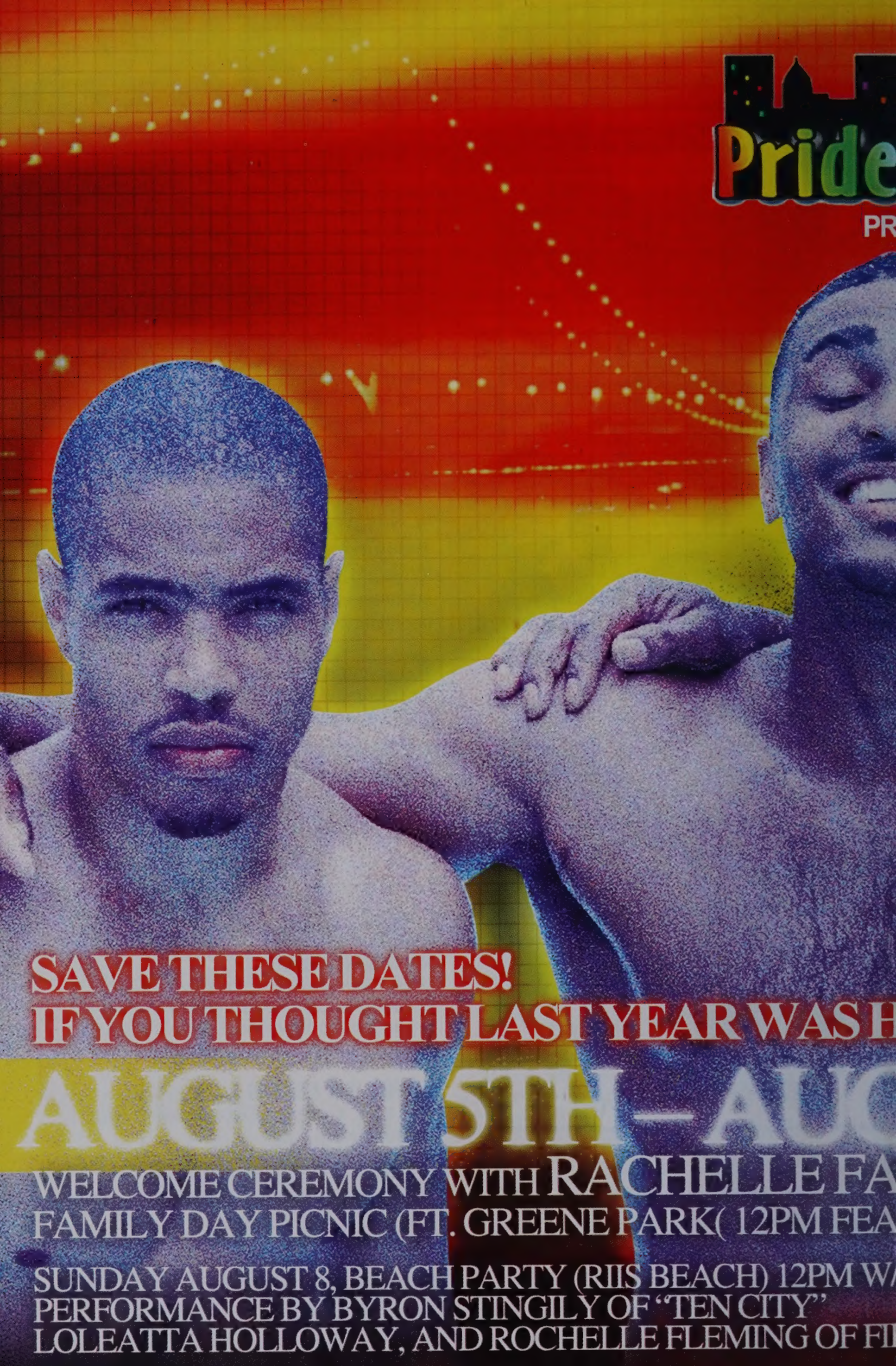

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HELLO DAHLINGS,

It is me, your favorite girl, Bianca Constantine Alexis Buchanan. The illegitimate love child of Rupaul Charles and Pat Buchanan. With parents like those you can imagine my extra- ordinary beauty and twisted cum fuck me persona. I was born fucked up, but after years of therapy and numerous cosmetic surgeries including four rhinoplastis, I continue to live royally. Over the last couple of months I have been working on my beauty and with the surgeries complete I am more dramatically changed than The Swan and even more narcissistic than you will ever imagine. I am sitting perched in lovely ... I can't say where I live because of a stalker named Josephina, who used to follow me around town when I lived in Houston. But I am living well. My collection of bling bling is outrageous and I am being dicked by a big dick Haitian man, whom we will refer to as Big L. Do I need to explain why his name is Big L? I don't think so.

Of course my new tits and gorgeousness has him eating out of the palm of my hands. He told me last night that I was his main girl. Do you know how happy that has made me? Well, I have waited a long time to be his main girl. I used to be his Tuesday-Thursday girl, much the same way I had English 18.11 while in college. Now I can see him four days of the week so this is one happy diva. Enough of me, since this column is really about you my adoring fans. Let me address your issues of the month. Until next month, be bold, stay bitchy, and continue to envy me, because I will forever remain beautiful.
Bianca.

DEAR BIANCA

I am a very unhappy person, although no one would know this because I always look happy. The problem is that I live with a man that I do not want to be with, and the man that I do want does not want me the way I want him. How do I move on and find happiness.
Lonely & Unhappy

DEAR LONELY & UNHAPPY,

It appears you have a serious dilemma, but have no fear; Bianca is here to give you the truth. Girl, I am not one for mincing my words so here is the harsh reality. You only have one life to live. This is not the dress rehearsal. You will need to make up your mind once and for all about the man you are living with. Kick him to the curb and become your own happy woman.

It may be difficult but you need to do it. Unless you believe in re-incarnation or you plan on being young forever, you need to move on.

As far as the other man is concerned, I do not know what to say. We all have this thing, with wanting the things we cannot have. We become almost obsessive to the point where we start hurting ourselves. Practice some self love and maybe you will leave the man you live with and eventually realize that the man you are obsessing about, is better for you at the level of friendship you now have. Is this other man Gay? Until you start living happily, I will remain beautiful.
Love Bianca

DEAR BIANCA,

I work for this fierce entertainment group. We put on very successful events and I get paid to do it. However I feel under compensated for my time and efforts. For example this past weekend we put on

the biggest gay festival in South Florida and I had no time to get me some dick despite some 10,000 gorgeous men around me all weekend. How can I assure myself of some dick next time?
Anita Lay

DEAR ANITA,
Stop whining. You are a fag and should have just dropped to your knees in front of all those cocks you wanted to suck. All work and no play makes Jill a horny cunt. Next year after you have done all you think you can do, just call your boss and keep flushing the toilet into the phone. Like all mortal men he will assume you are having the runs and you will not have to explain why you can't go to work. Then use the time wisely to get dicked.
Yours truly,
The ever-satisfied Bianca

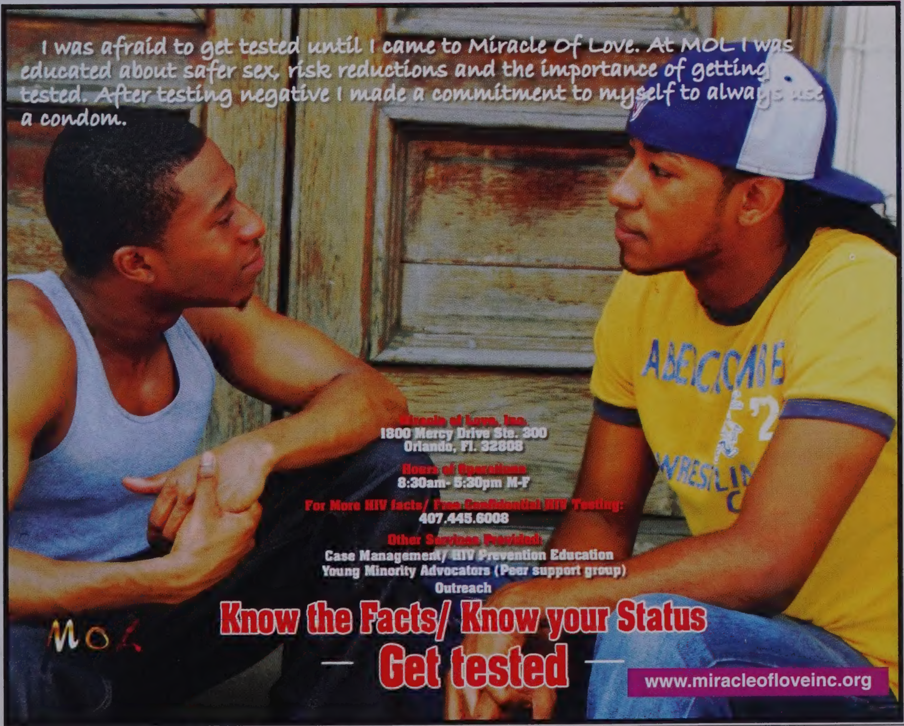
DEAR BIANCA,
I went to Sizzle in Miami last weekend and I had the time of my life. So many gorgeous men and so many hot spots to party. I am wondering if you have the name and address or phone number of the guy who won the Clikque Magazine pool party body contest?. He looked like a Greek god and I must have him.
Needy in New York

YOU NEEDY BITCH,
Who the hell do you think I am? Do I look like the type of person who would personally know the winner of a hot - body contest? I have better things to do. And in the future don't write to me asking me David's name nor his address on 89th street, because I don't know either of them.

Besides, you live in New York and my sources tell me he lives in South Florida. Get a grip, get a life and don't ever write to me again. Badass, Beautiful Bianca. P.S. Why would a man with the body of a Greek god want you?

Well that's it for this month. I could not respond to all your letters, but keep them coming, as the more meaningful ones will get published here on this same bad page, in this same bad magazine each month.

Until next time, I remain the ever devastating and beautiful Bianca.


I was afraid to get tested until I came to Miracle Of Love. At MOL I was educated about safer sex, risk reductions and the importance of getting tested. After testing negative I made a commitment to myself to always use a condom.
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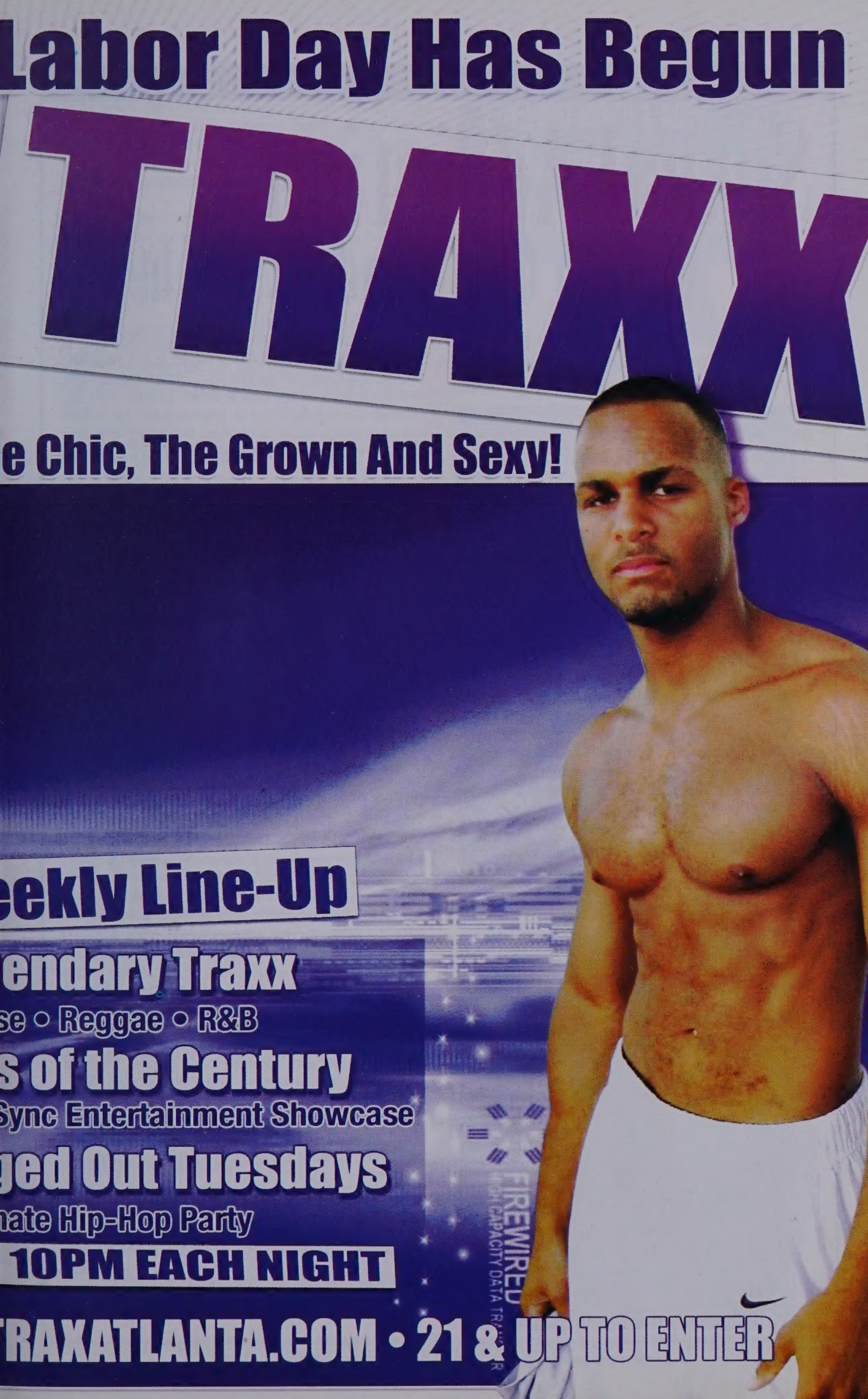
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BY SHAUN BOURGET, M.A., M.F.T.

Sexual Addiction

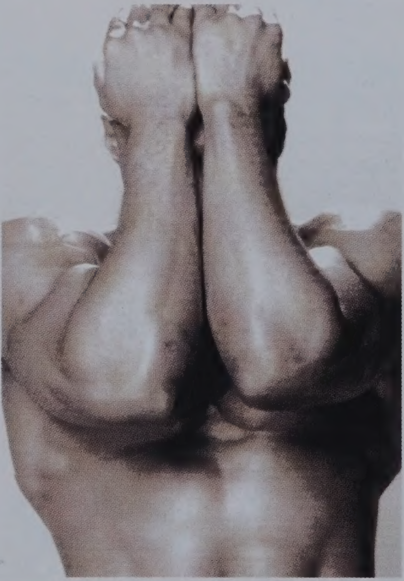
Are You On A Road To Nowhere?

Men's Health magazine reported in June that men, on average, have 12.4 sex partners (in a lifetime), and have sex 1.5 times per week. These numbers may seem low to many gay men, who generally exercise greater sexual freedom than their heterosexual counterparts. But for a person who is sexually compulsive these numbers may seem shockingly low.

Which begs the following questions: How much sex is too much? What is the difference between frequent sexual encounters and Sexual Addiction?

What is Sexual Addiction?

Sexual Addiction (also called Sexual Compulsivity or Sexual Acting Out) is an impulsively driven behavior that clouds your judgement and can lead to negative consequences in your life. Sexual Addiction is, "a chosen maladaptive coping strategy that provides momentary gratification for the emptiness a person feels inside," according to Derrell Tidwell, a licensed clinical social worker based in Los Angeles, CA. As this behavior continues, it gains momentum and becomes a whole new problem in-and-of-itself. "The person's judgement is impaired by the sexual impulses which leads to reckless behaviors with disastrous results," says Tidwell.



In distinguishing between frequent sexual encounters and Sexual Addiction, you must look at your level of self-control and the resulting consequences of the behavior itself. Frequent sexual encounters may be accompanied by feelings of guilt and minor consequences (e.g., tired and unproductive at work the day after a sexual encounter). Compulsive sexual behavior not only carries feelings of guilt, shame, sadness and loneliness, but it also usually results in devastatingly negative mental, emotional, physical or social consequences. Additionally, sexual compulsive behavior by definition involves an irresistible impulse to perform the sexual acts regardless of the consequences. This lack of control over the problem-causing behavior is the hallmark of any addiction or compulsion.

Anecdote

When Ken arrived for treatment he had feelings of guilt and shame related to his recent sexual encounters. Ken promised himself that these meaningless encounters would cease, but he felt increasingly powerless to stop them. "It's a rush, a feeling of pure excitement, like adrenaline pumping through every vein in my body," he explained.

Like many others, Ken suffers from Sexual Addiction, a maladaptive behavior used to compensate for his issues with closeness and intimacy in his relationships. "It's just so much easier to have anonymous sex with someone I don't know. There is this buildup of excitement and a sexual rush, hoping the other guy will notice me...want me. After we connect, I just lose myself in the sex. It's really not about knowing the guy. I rarely even want to know his name. When it's over, I can simply walk away," said Ken.

During his childhood, Ken's father left his home and his mother in order to make ends meet. Growing up, he received little affection or guidance and he had very little structure in his life. He experienced several significant losses and he learned that closeness with others inevitably results in loss and pain.

As an adult, Ken used sex to avoid closeness and intimacy with others (his greatest fear). At the same time, he learned to satisfy his thirst for attention with sex. But his behaviors only created more problems and complications in his life.

Problems Caused By Sexual Addiction
Whether you refer to it as Sexual Compulsivity, Sexual Addiction or Sexual Acting Out, the issue is not only the sexual behavior itself but also the problems that the addiction causes.

Sexual Addiction can cause problems in all aspects of your life -- physical, legal, financial and vocational. The addiction can also impact negatively on your relationships with friends, family and partners.

Possible Causes of Sexual Addiction

The powerful sexual desires, impulses and behaviors associated with Sexual Addiction are manifestations of deeply rooted mental and emotional issues. The sex is used to compensate for, distract against, cope with or fend off inner turmoil and conflict. Unresolved conflicts, lack of trust in others, fear of closeness, and irrational negative self-perceptions originate earlier in the developmental years of childhood.

"People suffering from Sexual Compulsivity experience difficulty attaching to others because of the vulnerability required of true intimacy. Since they do not trust others, they have a real problem being simultaneously close with and vulnerable to significant others," according to Tidwell. Thus, it is much safer to "connect" with someone anonymously on a sexual level than to become sexually intimate with someone on a much deeper level.

Some of these internal issues include:

- Lack of trust in significant others
- Fear of closeness and/or intimacy
- Negative self-perception
- Unending need for attention
- Low self-esteem, self-worth and self-respect
- Feeling unloved, unattractive, and unwanted
- Self-destructive tendencies
- Feelings of depression, sadness, loneliness
- Views of sex as the only "viable" means of connecting with others

Can Counseling or Therapy Help Me?

If you think you have a Sexual Addiction problem, therapy or counseling may help.

The first step of treatment is usually to recognize that your behavior is an unhealthy way of dealing with emotional issues. A professional counselor may help you to become more aware of both your behavior and the unresolved internal issues that may be causing your compulsive behavior. Your counselor may also help you make healthier behavior choices.

A sexual addict may display one or more of the following problems:

- Recurrent, intense sexually arousing urges, impulses or behavior that causes psychological stress.
- Continued display of sexual behavior despite a desire to reduce or terminate such behavior.
- Arrests for illegal sexual behavior including prostitution, indecent exposure, voyeurism, selling or buying child pornography, or sexual acts with a minor.
- Financial problems due to excess money spent on sexually oriented pursuits (e.g., pornography, online sex, phone sex, prostitution, etc.).
- A significant decrease in important social, recreational or occupational activities because they interfere with sexual activities.
- A propensity to engage in additional high risk behaviors including unprotected sex and drug and alcohol abuse.
- Contracting frequent and/or multiple sexually transmitted diseases (i.e., HIV, syphilis, chlamydia, gonorrhea, etc.).
- Continuation of sexual behavior despite persistent physical, legal, financial, vocational, social or relationship problems directly caused by the sexual behaviors.

SIZZ

SIZZLE2004

The Newest & Hottest Circuit Event

I arrived Miami International Airport on American Airlines Flight 1236 from New York, with Prada purse on hip and my Louis Pieces hauled by a baggage service technician, to the waiting limousine, I was carted off to the **Sheraton Biscayne Bay Hotel** where I would spend the next five days gagging.

Upon arrival at the hotel, I was met by the drop dead gorgeous **Miss Alexis** who is real fish on vacation from college. She gave me my welcome Package, which included a Sizzle tank top, shopping guides to Miami, Museums and eateries, as well as the events guide and my own personal black book for the datalations. I asked for an additional black book since I came to get numbers, pick up trade and make business contacts. Lies we tell. In addition, there were packets of condoms from one of those organizations. I think it was Urban Soul Squad of Miami.

First stop on the club scene was **The Soho Lounge**. A multilevel facility, featuring various rooms for us to indulge in different pleasures, was made available to all who had come to Sizzle early. The music was hot. **DJ Q** of **Atlanta** played his ass off and rocked my nerves, as did **DJ Jody** from **Miami**. The go-go boys in their Egyptian costumes were hot. Dick prints galore and the bodies were right. What a nice assortment of boys? From the slender Latino, to the big muscular Black man were on hand for our entertainment. Between the boys and the bar, I can't remember which got more of my money. The staff that greeted me were friendly and not to mention good looking. At the end of the night I knew I would have to

CONTINUES ON PAGE 43

SIZZLE 2004
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See Some Of America's
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Go Straight, Pass Denny's, Continue Straight
Cross Rail Road Track, Make 2nd Right
Turn After RR Track & The Club Is On The Right
Visit www.sizzle2004.com

This Is How Sizzle Got The Party Started... Not Bad. Not Bad At All. Thursday @ SoHo Lounge!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 41

call my charge card folks to let them know I would be on a spending frenzy, this weekend.

One of my girlfriends got thrown out of the club, because she refused to pay the tip that was attached to her drink price. Poor girl did not realize that they do that, in sophisticated clubs when you pay by credit card. Despite that, I had a blast.

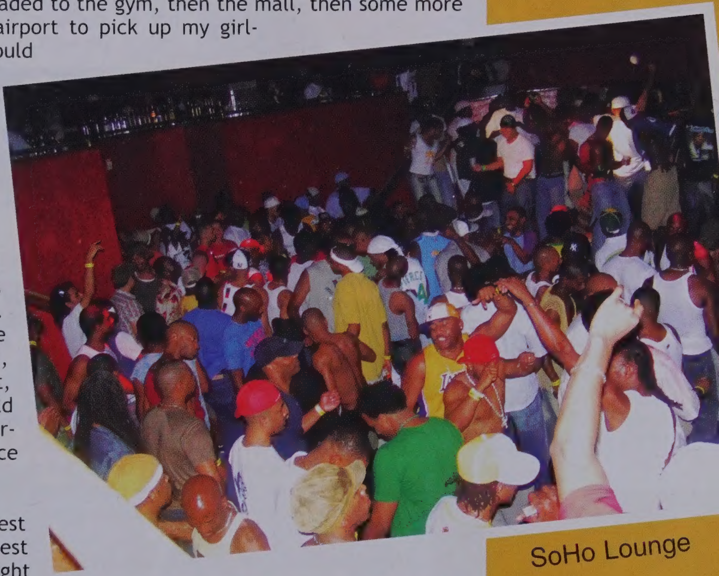
Before I forget. The **Sizzle Banner** displayed outside the Soho Lounge that night was incredibly beautiful and was available for viewing at every event that was to follow. Even after seeing it several times I could not help but continue to gaze at its beauty.

I got back to the hotel at 6:00 am, played around with a hot number from Kentucky who I will refer to as boy number one then passed out. It was room service that woke my ass up at noon.

Friday midday: I clean up, put my face on and did a couple pushups, to make sure that this bod I had spent so much time on the last six months would be good to go. I put on my Sizzle Tank top which was good for a day time outing and headed to the gym, then the mall, then some more shops and off to the airport to pick up my girlfriends whose jobs would not give them Thursday off. Too bad they should have gone to college.

We had dinner, I told them about last night's trade, which was good, but one girl had the nerve to ask me if I was going to see him again. With this many men the answer was a helified, Hell no. No disrespect, but I am not sure I would ever see this many gorgeous men in one place again.

After a well-deserved rest we got dressed in the best fashions we had brought and headed for some club named **Pure Nightlife**. Our Judys who lives in South Florida did not know what to expect, as this venue does not normally host gay black men. To our surprise, **it was off the muthafucking chain**. The space was awesome. The best I have seen for a gay circuit party and trust me, this whore has seen many a nightclubs. **DJ Gavin** spun my ass into a frenzy and the bartenders rocked my world. I twirled and twirled and ... you get the picture. The bevy of go-go gods was to die for in those damn angel wings, serving devil. I saw a bunch of girls from my past, but it was the new boys who all seemed to be sporting boners as they brushed up against me in passing that got my attention. The crotch-to-crotch action was severe. The sea of beauty that surrounded me overwhelmed me. So I just decided to kiss as many handsome men as I could and hope the most



SoHo Lounge

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masculine one would take me back to my hotel. Ok, I am promiscuous, I can't help it.

I am not sure what time the club ended, last time I checked it was 6.15 am and my ass was still on the dance floor. The rest of the night is one big blur.

I remember being woken up by the sound of a drag queen on a microphone as my room was poolside. I looked out and to my amazement there had to be about **1000 screaming faggots parading on the pool deck**. Looking lovely and sickening. I was actually feeling quite sick when I looked up and realized that a man I will call boy number two was still in my bed and he was not as manly as I remembered him to be either. Oh well.

Clikque
MAGAZINE

I shoved him through the door and took a long bath, put on something from my Gucci collection and headed for the pool. My gosh was this pool party given by the **Legendary Clikque Magazine** awesome? What can I say about this party? It was so fetch!!

You can read about it on the pool party review page in this very same magazine. Oh, the boy from New Jersey in the camouflage swim trunks gets my vote. He was right.

After the pool party I went to dinner then had just enough time to head on over to **Club Boi**. It was hot and sticky over there but the boys were cute. My bartender in the Hawaiian sarong, who showed me his piece since he was wearing no draws, got my vote for that night. Did you all see him on the small bar upstairs? The same bar where X-rated showed off his huge tool much to everyone's delight? I left ClubBoi at 7.30 am. And for real, **Miami was sizzling**.

I slept most of Sunday and heard that I had not missed much, as the Beach party was cancelled by the city of Miami, because they claimed it was too crowed on the beaches, that day and was a risk to public safety.

After finally getting up at 6:00 pm, I went to Houston's with some old girls for dinner, and then it was time to get dressed for the **Banjee Magazine Sex On The Beach party**. This event was held at the **Blue Café** in **Sunny Isles**. It was packed, it was hot, it was amazing but as the **MC Busta** from Atlanta reminded me every five minutes, what happens at Sex On The Beach stays at Sex On The Beach. I guess if you weren't there you shoulda been. Enough said.

If you think four days of partying was enough you were truly mistaken. On Monday daytime, everyone flocked to Haulover beach to get naked or watch naked men. This South Florida nude beach is simply divine. I got my life there too and a bunch of numbers. It sure pays to work out. With the beach over and my trifling ass having planned on staying to Tuesday and VIP card permitting, I went to the last hurrah that Monday night, at **Club I/O**. I went because I was still in Miami and the event was already paid for. much to my surprise, most people had the same plans. This night proved to be one of the best, as the space was major, so were the drinks and the go-go boys, plus I spotted a few celebrities in the mix. The fact that they were wearing baseball caps did not disguise them enough from me. How many basketball players and track athletes did you spot at Club I/O? It was not one or two, it was quite a few. I hope you got to feel up on a few like I did. Just goes to show that celebrities need dick too. I left I/O at 5.00 am that Tuesday morning with a to do list that read, book Sizzle 2005 vacation now on lines 1-10.

Miami sizzled, I partied, and I lost my mind, slept with one queen and a couple of hunks. I would not have changed a thing about the Sizzle weekend. Banjeeboi Inc and Clikque Magazine get a letter grade of A for a superb event. So for you girls who were there, see you next year and those who missed it, what can I say? You shoulda been!

Begin Making Plans For **Sizzle 2005**

Visit The Site @ Sizzle2005.com

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND
SIZZLE
MIAMI

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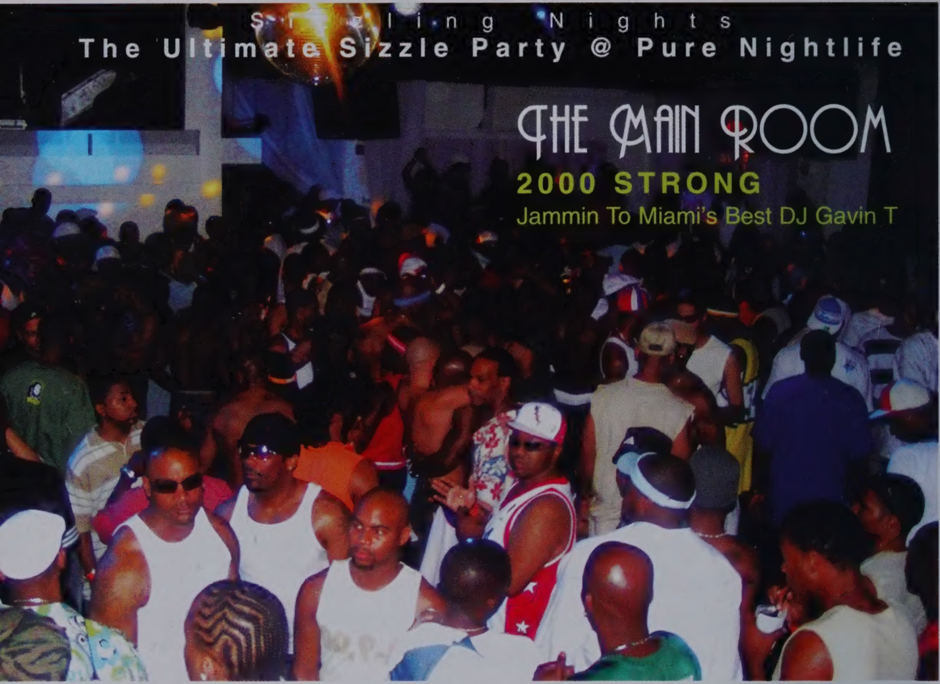
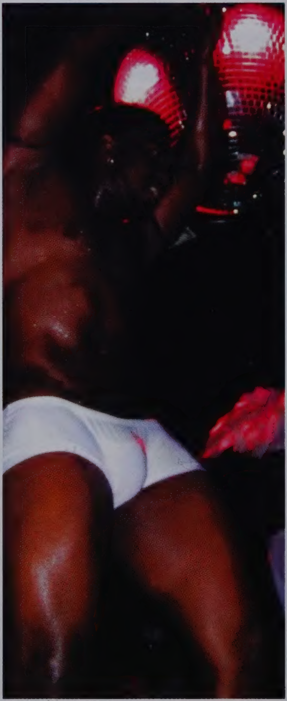
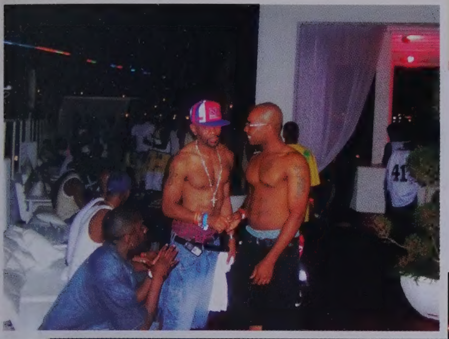


THE MAIN ROOM

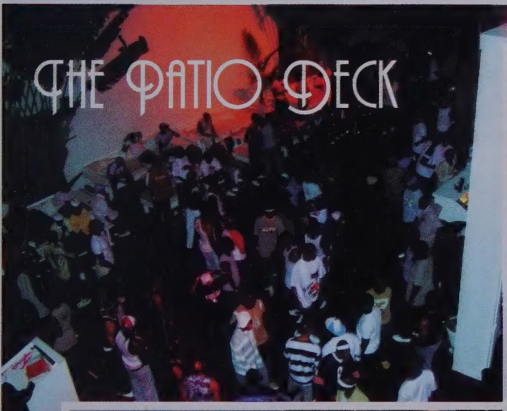
2000 STRONG

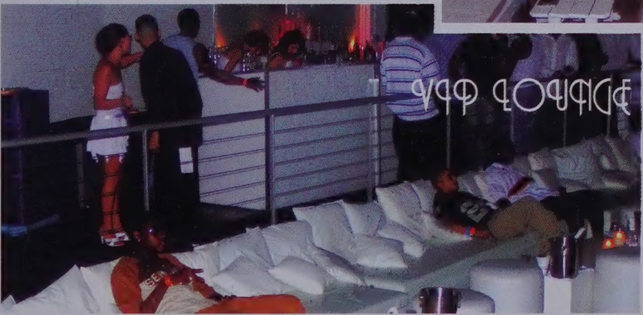
Jammin To Miami's Best DJ Gavin T





Voted Best Night of the Sizzle Weekend, Pure Nightlife proved to be the ultimate in nightclub spaces. Offering an upper deck, cruisy walkways and relaxation verandahs, Pure was the elite of our many fine party spaces. Try never to miss a Banjee Boi Inc. party, given at Pure.





Now You Can See Why Saturday May 29th Was The Hottest Day On Record For The Year 2004 In Miami.

A Miami native by the name of David proved that south Florida, despite its smaller black gay population was still a contender, in the race for sexiest men in North America. Before a capacity packed audience of 1000 gorgeous men from around the globe, **David** bested a field of 15 contestants to walk away with the coveted prize of $500 in cash and a chance to appear on this months cover of **Clikque Magazine.**

The competition, which was hosted by the very entertaining and sexy **Kennedy Davenport** of **Dallas, Texas**, now residing in Miami, was one of the hottest I have ever witnessed. All the contenders looked lovely, but it was David's revelation that took him over the edge to capture the grand prize.

Wearing a yellow and black lounge wrap pant, David strutted his stuff to an engaged and captive audience and got thunderous applause. However, when **Maceo** of Detroit and **Saint** of Atlanta, started to steal the spotlight from him, there went the wrap. The hooting and hollering was unimaginable and with that Clikque Magazine found it's newest cover boy.

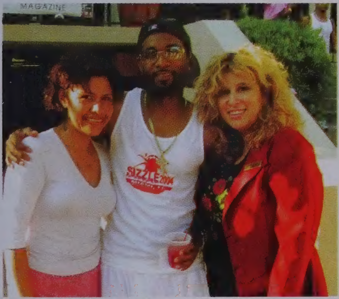
David is a Massage therapist and Personal trainer from Miami, whose business is called the **Body Architect**. With muscles rippling and bulging everywhere, the very gracious David said he enjoyed the competition. When asked what part of the weekend he enjoyed most, we were shocked to find out that winning the contest actually ranked lower than the amazing time he had at Pure Night club the night before.

Interested readers of this magazine should be pleased to know that David is going on a summer tour which will begin in New Orleans, go as far north as New York and end in Atlanta, before he heads back home. When asked how he can be reached, David suggested that you come to South Florida and make an appointment for a massage or some personal training and you can get to spend time with him. His information is available from Clikque Magazine for those needing his services.

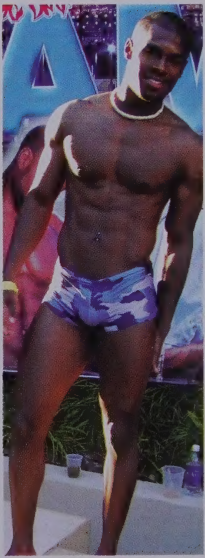
Clikque salutes this months cover boy, and thanks him for helping make this year's pool party and hot body contest such an entertaining and competitive one.

SIZZLE 2004
MIAMI, FL
MIAMI

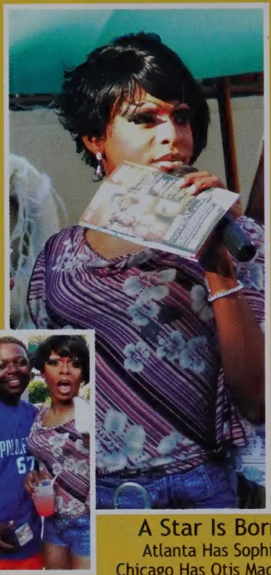
The Sizzle Gang: Chris (seated), Lewis, Rod, Charles, Louis & Dwight Enjoying Themselves @ The Hottest Pool Party To Hit Miami


SIZZLE 2004

Sizzle Organizer & Founder With Hotel Reps Mariam & Angela @ Clikque Pool Party



Can Someone Please Tell This New Jersey Hotty To Call The Staff At Clikque



A Star Is Born

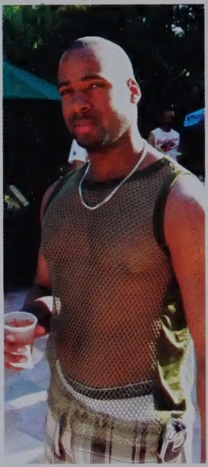
Atlanta Has Sophia
Chicago Has Otis Mack
New York Has Harmonica
Houston's Got Cookie and Miami's Got
KENNEDY DAVENPORT

Allow us to introduce you to the latest, hottest, drag phenomenon to hit the scene. Relatively new queen on the block, but she has big dreams and a lot of talent. She is a big fan of Atlanta's Sophia Mc Intosh, but Sophia had better watch out because here comes Kennedy Davenport.

Child of Kelixis, Kennedy is a sweetheart. She is personable, charming and witty and she got her good looks from her mother who is undeniably pretty. Kennedy took on the role of hostess for the Legendary Clikque Magazine pool party after the official hostess Samantha Devine was forced to withdraw.

Thank goodness for that, Miss Kennedy Davenport turned out the party. The bitch can slug a cocktail, and shake her ass like a goddess, but more importantly she has a mouth on her. So much so, that Clikque Magazine has decided to make her the official host of Clikque events to come.

Kennedy had us in stitches with her off the wall humor and ability to improvise. So what if she inhales liquor like a trucker and so what if she won the strip contest at Boardwalk one Wednesday? We still think she is a classy lady who is going places and we at Clikque both welcome and salute her. You can catch Kennedy all over the globe, as she is a pageant queen but just remember that in the future when Clikque is having an event Kennedy Davenport will be right there. **Yu go girl**



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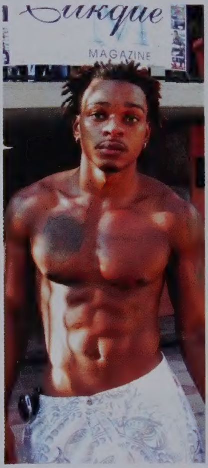

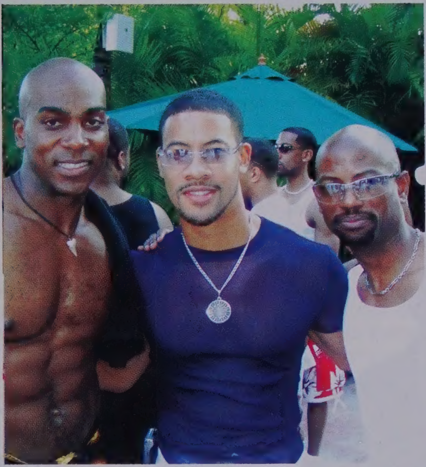

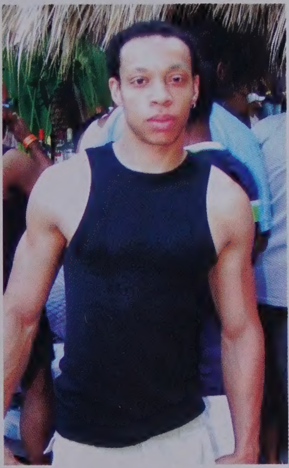

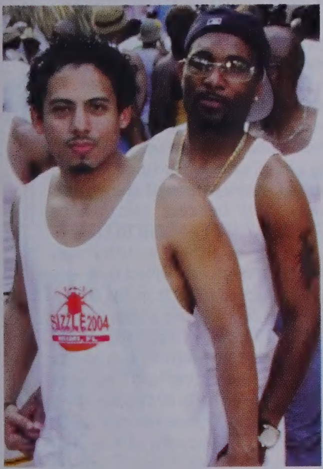
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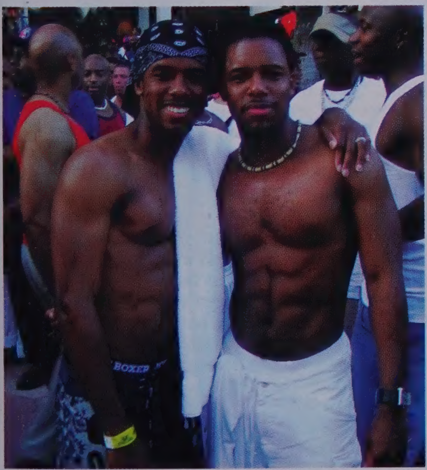
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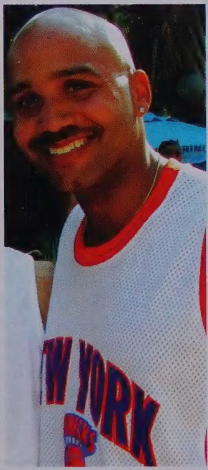
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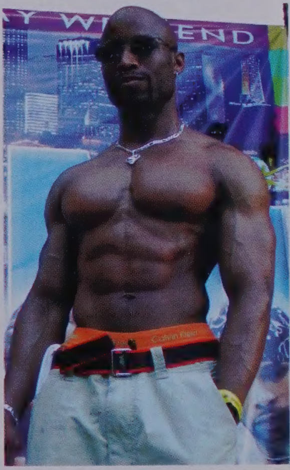

ARTICLE BY SCOTT BOGAN

The guard is ALWAYS on watch!

I was recently out and about engrossed in my everyday errands when someone who wanted to talk about one of my articles approached me. We stood there for 10 minutes discussing my point of view and then he offered me his. At the end of this conversation, he pointed out to me that I wasn't at all like I appeared to be in my column. He said that I seemed a lot more reserved whereas in my column I was more open and free with my thoughts. At the time the comment didn't really register with me and I glossed over it and moved on completing my errands. Later when the comment reappeared in my thoughts, I considered the meaning behind it.

The truth is (and I think that I have shared this before) that the public me, the person that hangs out with my friends at parties and on the rare occasion in clubs or wherever, is very guarded. There are a few reasons that I guard myself so carefully. The easiest one that I can share is that I slightly suffer from social phobia (meaning that I fear social situations). The reason that I say "slightly" is because I am not afraid to talk to people but I cannot just approach someone and strike up a conversation on a whim. I get very nervous, I don't have a clue what to say and just thinking about it while typing this puts butterflies in my stomach. On the flip side, if someone were to approach me, I still wouldn't know what to say but I would try my hardest to be engaging and participate in the conversation. For example, I was waiting for the elevator one day going to my gym when the doors opened and there is this very cute guy that I have admired from a distance for years (probably as long as I have been a member at this gym). I said hello, kept my eyes on the floor and immediately moved to a sidewall where I stood with my arms folded across my chest. Normally I don't stand like this because I am very aware of the signals that it sends out. But because this chance meeting caught me off guard I needed to cling to some security and I guess that security was myself. When he spoke back and asked how was I doing, I lifted my head to glance in his direction and found his eyes meeting mine with a pleasant smile on his face. In retrospect, his eyes and smile had a certain warmth but at the time, all I could do was say, "fine" and my eyes went back to the floor. We rode in silence for a couple of floors. As we got closer to the ninth floor (where the gym is located) out of the blue he asked if I have taken the yoga class on Sunday's. To understand his question, I must share with you that he and I have regularly taken a Tuesday night yoga class. To answer another question that I am sure everyone is thinking, yes this man is black. Black men/women do practice the discipline of yoga, but that is another topic. Anyway, when he asked me this question I stammered searching for words. While I knew that I had never taken the Sunday class, it shocked me that he knew I was in the Tuesday class. Right when the doors opened to the 9th floor, I was finally able to say, "I have only taken the Tuesday evening class". I tried to go about my business but as I got a few steps ahead of him it occurred to me that I was letting another opportunity pass me by. So I forced myself to come from behind my wall. I turned around with my stomach in knots and asked him about the Sunday class. We stood there for a few minutes talking about the class and when he was finished I didn't know what else to say so I very awkwardly and abruptly said "see ya later" and I walked off. I am sure that he thinks that I am completely insane. Quite frankly, I often think so myself. That is the thing about social phobia, even when you really want to talk to people, sometimes you inexplicably just can't.

Another reason that I guard myself is because I am a pretty sensitive person. I am by no means saying that I am "thin-skinned" or I cry every time someone wants to "read" me. I can go toe-to-toe with the best of them. What I am saying is that when someone does get close to me, I completely invest all of me. When it comes to friendships or relationships, I don't live in gray areas and at times this has gotten me into some volatile situations. The result usually ends up being that I push these people away in order to protect my feelings. I don't like this about myself, but it is definitely a tactic that I use for my own survival. This is probably why my closest friends are people that have been a part of my life for 10 years or longer. They have seen all sides of me...the good, the bad and the ugly and they still hang around just as devoted and protective of me as I am of them.

The last reason that I am willing to share is the hardest one for me to share. I honestly must say that I don't find too many people that interesting. This is hard for me to say because there are a lot of people that already think that I am a snob and this statement somewhat supports their thought. Allow me to explain. I think that most people hide behind a pretense that everything in life is wonderful and ok. They opt to put on a "game face" instead of being themselves (if they know who they are). Think about it, how many people do you know that have gone into debt to own Gucci, Prada, a Lexus, a Mercedes, etc all for the sake of appearance? I'm not even going to mention the people that purchase things in someone else's name (yeah stunt gurls)....oops, I'm sorry I said I wasn't going to mention those people. Just for the record, I admit that I have a closet full of "game face" that I used to hide behind and sometimes still do. The difference in me now is that I know who I am and that those things don't define me. Then there are the people that are so insecure that all they can talk about is themselves. The spotlight must always shine on them. A couple of months ago I went to dinner with a friend who invited two other guys that I did not know. I was warned that one of the guys talked too much. At first, it didn't bother me because I know that when I encounter new people my guard is up and I usually sit on the periphery anyway. But as the night progressed I became completely annoyed. This person monopolized all of the conversations with nothing but self- indulgent topics and if the conversation dared to change to someone else's topic he tried to bring it right back to him. I was

CONTINUES ON PAGE 54

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 53

told later that the look of disdain on my face was "priceless". I couldn't help it. I cannot stand selfish, inconsiderate people. While I understood that his incessant meaningless chatter was because he probably did not feel like he measured up to the others at the table or maybe he felt the need to prove himself right off the bat. Whatever his reason, I know that it came from a place of insecurity and even though I know where his behavior came from I still find it unbearable and boring. It's boring because it's transparent and there is nothing substantial for me to sink my teeth into. In a word, it's just "fluff".

One of the things that I am most clear about is that my writing allows me to get my thoughts and feelings out on paper then detach myself from them and hopefully learn something about myself or heal a part of me that needs healing. I love it when I hear from readers that connect with something that I have written. Even if they strongly disagree, it says to me that I have gotten someone to think about something that they may have never considered. But if no one ever sends me emails or approaches me, that is all right because my writing is ultimately about...me.

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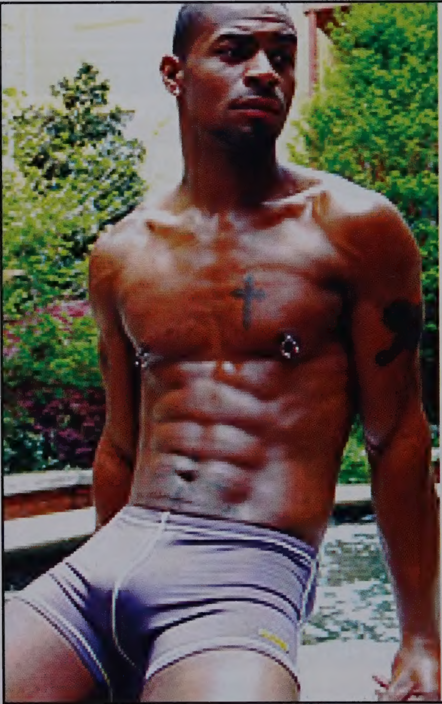

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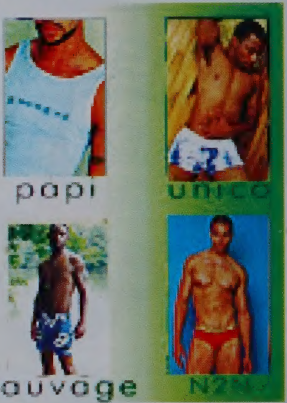

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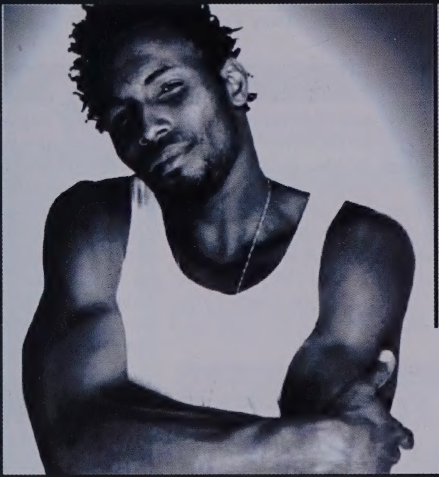

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GETTING YOUR MONTH OFF TO A GREAT START

ARIES

Aries - You are being indecisive about many things. Go on girl and just do it. You have what it takes to be a success and no one can stop you this month. Kick that bitch out of the way and claim what is rightfully yours.

TAURUS

Taurus - You egocentric, pig headed bull. Be nice to everyone you meet this month and you will see that life is not as mercilessly competitive as you think. Someone loves you and really wants to be your baby. Open up and let him.

GEMINI

Gemini - The summer is almost here and you are in the best of spirits. You are hopeful about the new boy that you have your eye on and finally spoke to. He is a good catch. Play your cards right and you will be one happy gal.

CANCER

Cancer - The misery of the last nine months of your life is finally over. Like the summer sun you, are brilliant and ready to shine. All sorts of opportunities are waiting for you to take them. So go on girl and just do it.

LEO

Leo - It is time for you to find your purpose in life. It is not just simply to live, but it is to live and seek happiness. That is your ultimate goal. So get that hot body of yours into even less clothing and let the kids know you are here, fierce and ready to truly live

VIRGO

Virgo - So he is back in your life and so are you. Back in your own life and feeling good about yourself. Isn't it nice to feel like you have accomplished something? Treat yourself to a fab reward. Do something daring and forget about what others might think.

LIBRA

Libra - Everyone thinks you are a bitch, but only half of them are right. Along with the title, miss bitch comes your many other glowing attributes. You are smart, talented and promiscuous, and this summer the folks won't know how to take you. You are a star girl, so just remember to always shine.

SCORPIO

Scorpio - What can be said about you other than that you are a self absorbed whore. The men in your life are sexually satisfied but all of them are trying to figure out when you will share one iota of emotion with them. As it stands they will have to wait, as you are simply not ready. The, saying goes all that glitters is not gold but you are!

SAGITTARIUS

Sagittarius - You better work heifer! You are so fetch! Fetch? Huh? Well that word is never going to catch on Gretchen but neither will you Minerva, unless you start changing today. You are all that and two bags of chips so start acting the part. Be nice to yourself this month. You deserve it.

CAPRICORN

Capricorn - Those you love most seem to give you the hardest time. A time is coming when you get to call the shots. People will respect you for the great human being that you are. Keep your head up. Better times are on the way.

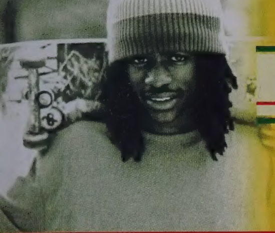
AQUARIUS

Aquarius - All work and no play makes jack a mere toy. All your hard work is about to pay big dividends. Success comes through hard work and you have been working hard. The harvest is ripe and you are about to get yours. The people who love you have your back this month. Now reciprocate the love.

PISCES

Pisces - Miss Girl, Miss Girl. Stop running and settle down. Whether it be with a man, a job or a place to call home, just stop the running. See how much your lifewill improve as you settle down. Some boy is waiting to call you husband.

CHECK US OUT ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB



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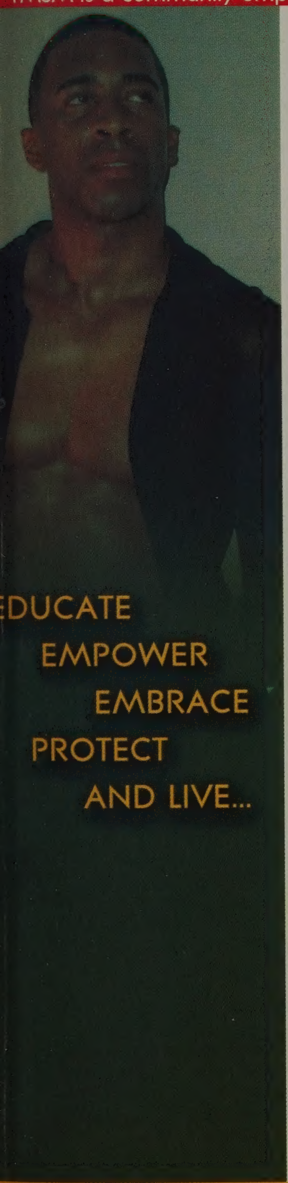

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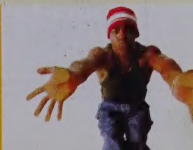

By Michael Bronski

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Disease Control and the National Institutes of Health asked for more funding for their work on AIDS, they were routinely denied it. Between June 1981 and May 1982 the CDC spent less than $1 million on AIDS and $9 million on Legionnaires' disease. At that point more than 1,000 of the 2,000 reported AIDS cases resulted in death; there were fewer than 50 deaths from Legionnaires' disease. This drastic lack of funding would continue throughout the Reagan years.

When health and support groups in the gay community were beginning to initiate education and prevention programs, they were denied federal funding. In October 1987, Helms amended a federal appropriations bill to prohibit AIDS education efforts that "encourage or promote homosexual activity"—that is, efforts that tell gay men how to have safe sex.

When almost all medical experts spoke out against mandatory HIV testing—since it would drive those at risk away from being tested—and groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union and Lambda Legal Defense Fund were attempting to combat discrimination against people with HIV/AIDS, Republicans such as Vice President George Bush in 1987 and Dannemeyer (in a California state referendum) in 1988 called for mandatory HIV testing.

Throughout all of this Reagan said nothing and did nothing. When Rock Hudson, a friend and colleague of the Reagans, was diagnosed with AIDS and died in 1985 (one of the 20,740 cases reported that year), Reagan still did not speak out as president. When family friend William F. Buckley, in a March 18, 1986, New York Times opinion article, called for mandatory testing for HIV and said that HIV-positive gay men should have this information forcibly tattooed on their buttocks (and IV drug users on their arms) Reagan said nothing. In 1986 (after five years of complete silence), when Surgeon General C. Everett Koop released a report calling for AIDS education in schools, Bennett and Bauer did everything possible to undercut and prevent funding for Koop's too-little, too-late initiative. Reagan again said and did nothing. By the end of 1986, 37,061 AIDS cases had been reported; 16,301 people had died.

My students ask me how all of this could have happened. They are all smart, they understand politics, they understand the fear of AIDS, and they understand how complicated—and confusing—history and life can be. But they cannot understand such indifference, even when politically motivated. I told one of my students that the most memorable Reagan AIDS moment for me was at the 1986 centenary rededication of the Statue of Liberty. The Reagans were there sitting next to French president Francois Mitterand and his wife, Danielle. Bob Hope was onstage entertaining the all-star audience. In the middle of a series of one-liners, Hope quipped, "I just heard that the Statue of Liberty has AIDS, but she doesn't know if she got it from the mouth of the Hudson or the Staten Island Fairy." As the television camera panned the audience, the Mitterands looked appalled. The Reagans were laughing. By the end of 1989 and the Reagan years, 115,786 women and men had been diagnosed with AIDS in the United States, and more than 70,000 of them had died.

The protests against The Reagans are really nothing more than a political sideshow with conservatives flexing their muscles (and threatening an economic boycott) to protect their own version of history. The genre of the television miniseries, even one based in contemporary history, is by its nature a project of interpretation—a fact that seems to have escaped the protesters. But the irony is that portraying Reagan as being antigay because of his religious convictions, while wrong, is in fact the kind interpretation. Looking at history, it is clear that Reagan's inaction during the first decade of the AIDS epidemic was due to indifference, emotional callousness, and greed for political power. In the end I agree with those who protest The Reagans—CBS should have told us the truth.

Michael Bronski is a film critic for the Forward, where this essay originally appeared.

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August 6, 2004

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August 7, 2004

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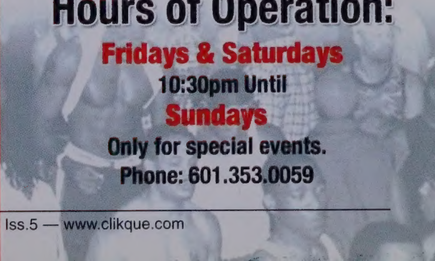

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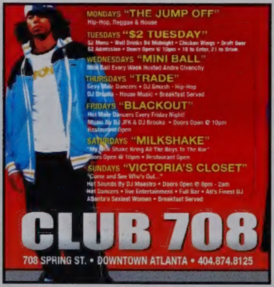
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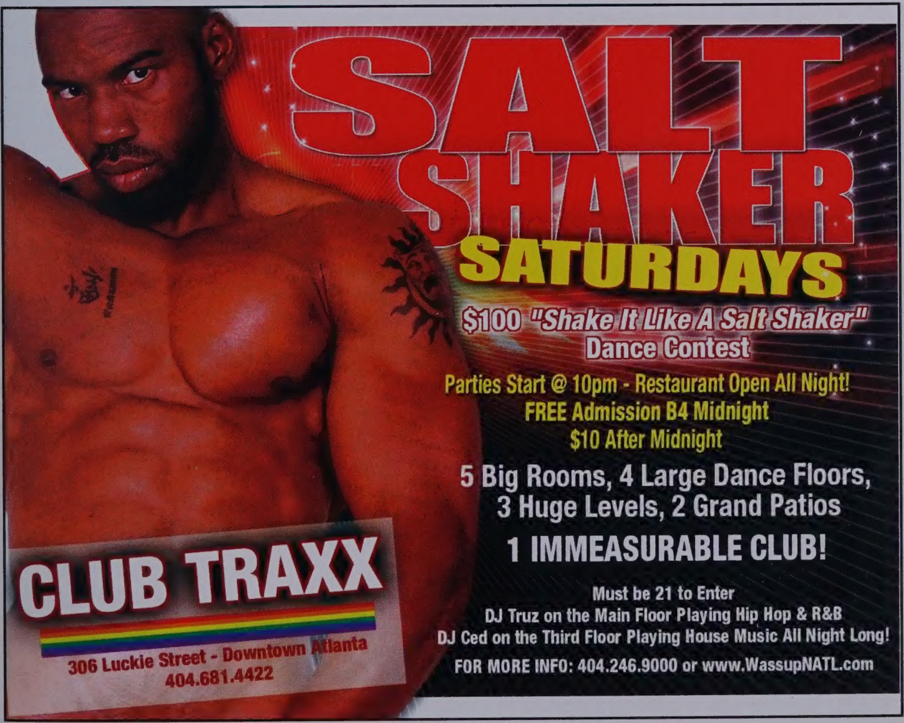

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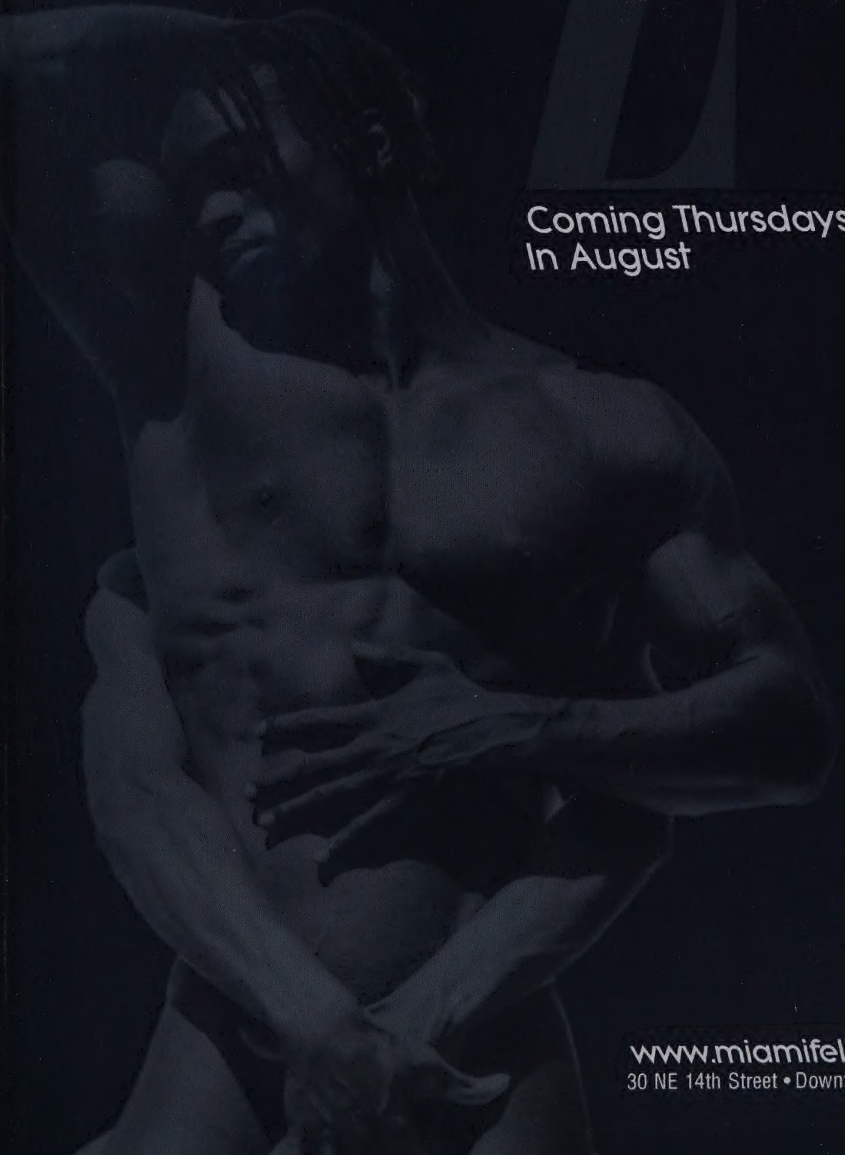

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Pride IN THE CITY

PRESENTS

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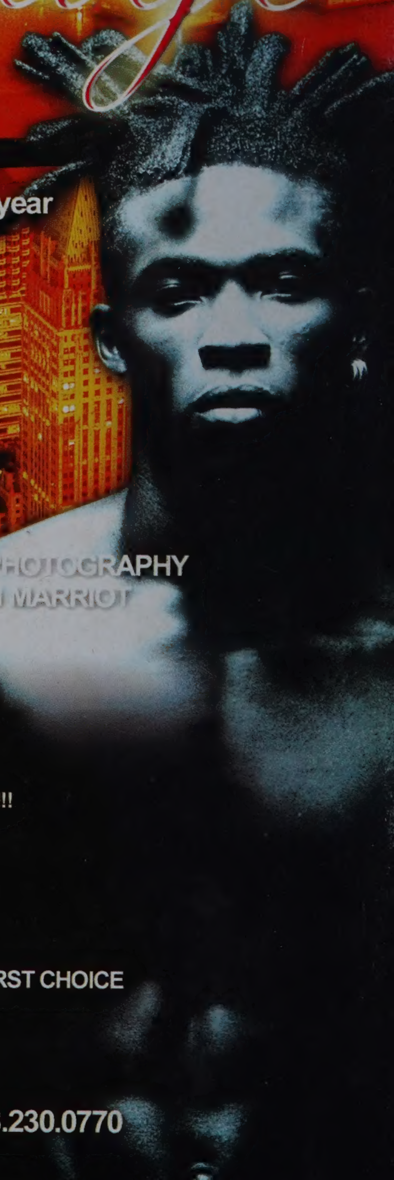

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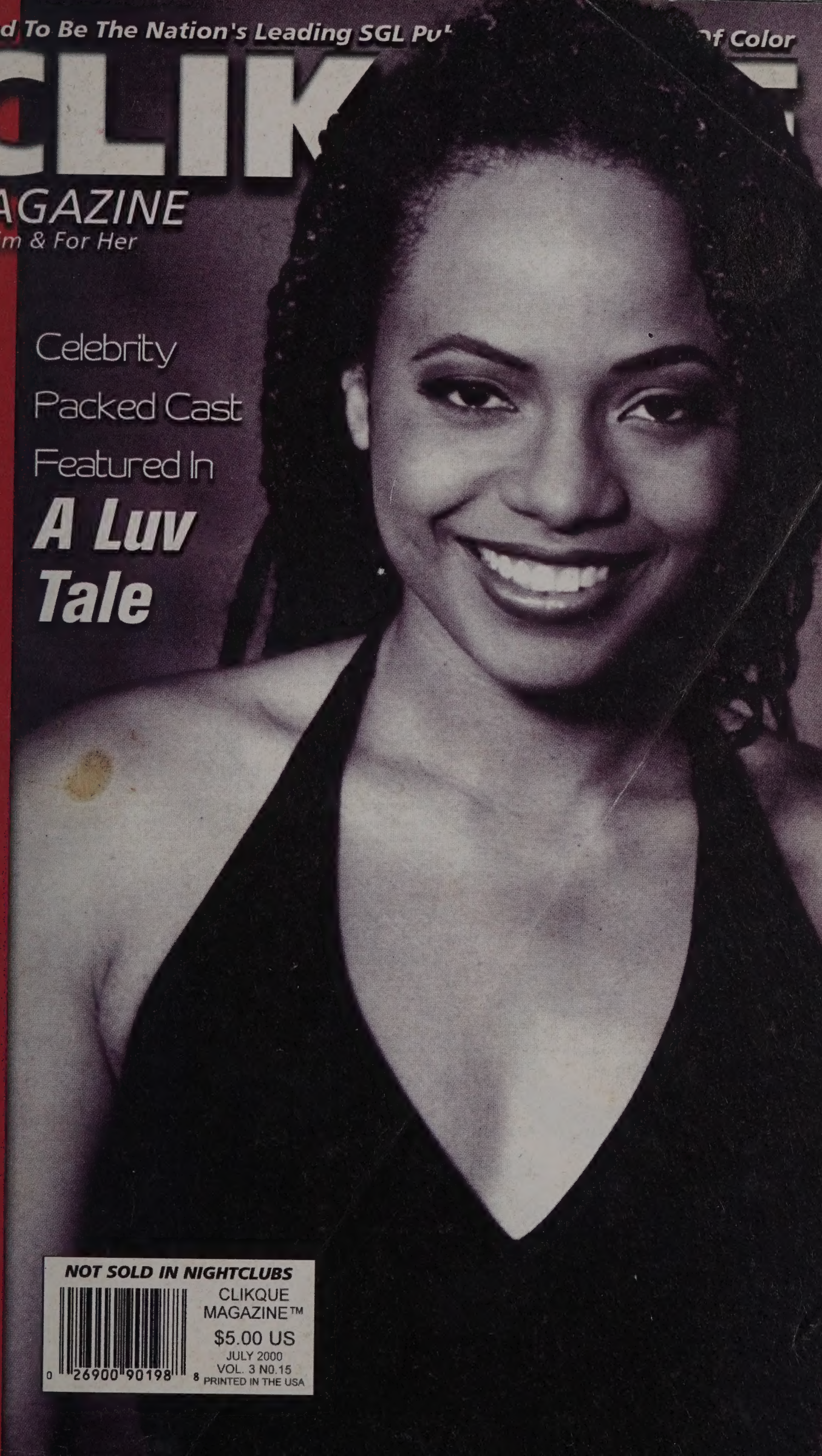

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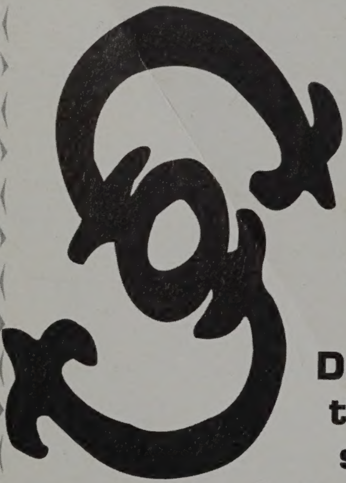

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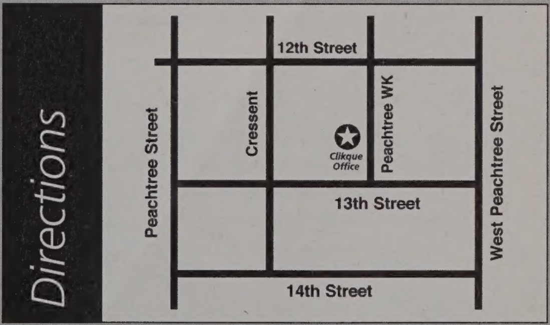

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Powerful Therapy That Fits the Way You Live

LOWER VIRUS LEVELS—LONGER

SUSTIVA isn't just effective in combination treatment of HIV-1 infection; it's effective long-term. In clinical studies, combination therapies containing SUSTIVA were proven superior to protease inhibitor–containing regimens in lowering the HIV virus to levels that were undetectable.[1] In one study, SUSTIVA kept it at those levels for more than two years.[2]

TAKE IT JUST ONCE A DAY

SUSTIVA fits the way you live because you take it just once a day. It can be taken with or without meals, and there's no need to drink lots of liquid.

GENERALLY TOLERABLE SIDE EFFECTS

SUSTIVA is generally well tolerated, with fewer gastrointestinal (GI) side effects, such as nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea, than Viracept®*.[3] Diabetes, kidney stones, and life-threatening liver problems are rare.

SAFETY INFORMATION

Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams a few hours after starting SUSTIVA. They tend to go away after you have taken the medicine for a few weeks. A small number of patients have had severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. If you have these symptoms, you should contact your doctor immediately to discuss your therapy. There have been a few reports of suicide, but SUSTIVA has not been established as the cause. Women should not become pregnant while taking SUSTIVA because birth defects have been seen in cynomolgus monkeys given SUSTIVA. See Patient Information about SUSTIVA on the following pages.

Once Daily
SUSTIVA™
efavirenz

...So Life Goes On

References: 1. DPC Study 006, SUSTIVA/ZDV/3TC versus IDV/ZDV/3TC; ACTG 364, SUSTIVA/NRTIs versus NFV/NRTIs.
2. DPC Study 006, SUSTIVA/ZDV/3TC versus IDV/ZDV/3TC. **3.** ACTG 364, SUSTIVA/NRTIs versus NFV/NRTIs.
*Viracept is a registered trademark of Agouron Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
For further information visit our website at www.sustiva.com or call 1-800-4-PHARMA (1-800-474-2762).
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Once Daily
SUSTIVA™
efavirenz

SUSTIVA™ (efavirenz) capsules

Patient Information about SUSTIVA* (sus-TEE-vah) for HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) Infection
Generic name: efavirenz (eh-FAH-vih-rehnz)

Please read this information before you start taking SUSTIVA. Read it again each time you refill your prescription, in case there is any new information. Don't treat this leaflet as your only source of information about SUSTIVA. Always discuss SUSTIVA with your doctor when you start taking your medicine and at every visit. You should remain under a doctor's care when using SUSTIVA. You should not change or stop treatment without first talking to your doctor.

What is SUSTIVA?
SUSTIVA is a medicine used to help treat HIV, the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). SUSTIVA is a type of HIV drug called a "non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor" (NNRTI).

How does SUSTIVA work?
SUSTIVA works by lowering the amount of HIV in the blood (called "viral load"). SUSTIVA must be taken with other anti-HIV medicines. When taken with other anti-HIV medicines, SUSTIVA has been shown to reduce viral load and increase the number of CD4 cells (a type of immune cell in blood). SUSTIVA may not have these effects in every patient.

Does SUSTIVA cure HIV or AIDS?
SUSTIVA is not a cure for HIV or AIDS. People taking SUSTIVA may still develop other infections associated with HIV. Because of this, it is very important that you remain under the care of your doctor.

Does SUSTIVA reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?
SUSTIVA has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others. Continue to practice safe sex, and do not use or share dirty needles.

How should I take SUSTIVA?
- The dose of SUSTIVA for adults is 600 mg (three 200 mg capsules, taken together) once a day by mouth. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower (see **Can children take SUSTIVA?**).
- Take SUSTIVA at the same time each day. You should take SUSTIVA at bedtime during the first few weeks or if you have side effects, such as dizziness or trouble concentrating (see **What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?**).
- Swallow SUSTIVA with water, juice, milk or soda. You may take SUSTIVA with or without meals; however, SUSTIVA should not be taken with a high fat meal.
- Do not miss a dose of SUSTIVA. If you forget to take SUSTIVA, take the missed dose right away. If you do miss a dose, do not double the next dose. Carry on with your regular dosing schedule. If you need help in planning the best times to take your medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- Take the exact amount of SUSTIVA your doctor prescribes. Never change the dose on your own. Do not stop this medicine unless your doctor tells you to stop.
- When your SUSTIVA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to SUSTIVA and become harder to treat.

Can children take SUSTIVA?
Yes, children who are able to swallow capsules can take SUSTIVA. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower than the dose for adults. Capsules containing lower doses of SUSTIVA are available. Your child's doctor will determine the right dose based on your child's weight.

Who should not take SUSTIVA?
Do not take SUSTIVA if you are allergic to SUSTIVA or any of its ingredients.

What other medical problems or conditions should I discuss with my doctor?
Talk to your doctor right away if you:
- Are pregnant or want to become pregnant
- Are breast-feeding
- Have problems with your liver, or have had hepatitis
- Start or change any medicine
- Have side effects while taking SUSTIVA
- Have a history of mental illness, substance or alcohol abuse

What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?
A small number of patients have had severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. Some patients have had thoughts of suicide and a few patients have actually committed suicide. These problems tend to occur more often in patients with a history of mental illness. You should contact your doctor immediately if you think you are having these symptoms, so your doctor can decide whether you should continue to take SUSTIVA.

Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams a few hours after starting treatment with SUSTIVA. These feelings may be less noticeable if you take SUSTIVA at bedtime. They also tend to go away after you've taken the medicine for a few weeks. If you have these side effects, such as dizziness, it does not mean that you will also have severe depression, strange thoughts or angry behavior. Tell your doctor promptly if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. There is the possibility tha these symptoms may be more severe if SUSTIVA is used with alcohol or mood altering (street) drugs. You should avoid driving or operating machinery if you are having these side effects.

One of the most common side effects is rash. These rashes usually go away withou any change in treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. If you develop a rash, call your doctor promptly.

Other common side effects include tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, and diarrhea However, this is not a complete list of side effects reported with SUSTIVA when taken with other anti-HIV drugs. Do not rely on this leaflet alone for information about side effects. Your doctor can discuss a more complete list of side effects with you.

Please contact your doctor immediately before stopping SUSTIVA because of side effects. Tell your doctor or other healthcare provider if you notice any side effects while taking SUSTIVA.

What about birth control, pregnancy, or breast-feeding?
Women should not become pregnant while taking SUSTIVA. Birth defects have been seen in animals treated with SUSTIVA. It is not known whether this could happen in humans. You should use a condom or diaphragm in addition to other methods of birth control while taking SUSTIVA. Inform your doctor immediately if you are pregnant. If you want to become pregnant, talk to your doctor. Do not take SUSTIVA if you are breast-feeding. Talk to your doctor if you are breast-feeding your baby

Can I take other medicines with SUSTIVA?
SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines (including ones for HIV). Your doctor may change your medicines or change their doses. For this reason, it is very important to:
- Let all your doctors and pharmacists know that you take SUSTIVA.
- Tell your doctors and pharmacists about all medicines you take. This includes those you buy over-the-counter and herbal or natural remedies.

Bring all your medicines when you see a doctor, or make a list of their names, how much you take, and how often you take them. This will give your doctor a complete picture of the medicines you use. Then he or she can decide the best approach for your situation.

The following medicines may cause serious and life-threatening side effects when taken with SUSTIVA. You should not take any of these medicines while taking SUSTIVA**:
- Hismanal® (astemizole)
- Propulsid® (cisapride)
- Versed® (midazolam)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Ergot medications (for example, Wigraine® and Cafergot®)

The following medicines may need to be changed or have their dose changed when taken with SUSTIVA**:
- Crixivan® (indinavir)
- Fortovase® (saquinavir)
- Biaxin® (clarithromycin)

How should I keep SUSTIVA?
SUSTIVA is available as 50 mg, 100 mg, and 200 mg capsules.

Keep SUSTIVA at room temperature (77°F) in the bottle given to you by your pharmacist. The temperature can range from 59°-86°F.

Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children.

How can I learn more about SUSTIVA?
Talk to your doctor or other healthcare provider if you have questions about either SUSTIVA or HIV. For additional information you can visit the SUSTIVA website at http://www.sustiva.com.

This medicine was prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use it for any other condition or give it to anybody else. Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children. If you suspect that more than the prescribed dose of this medicine has been taken, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

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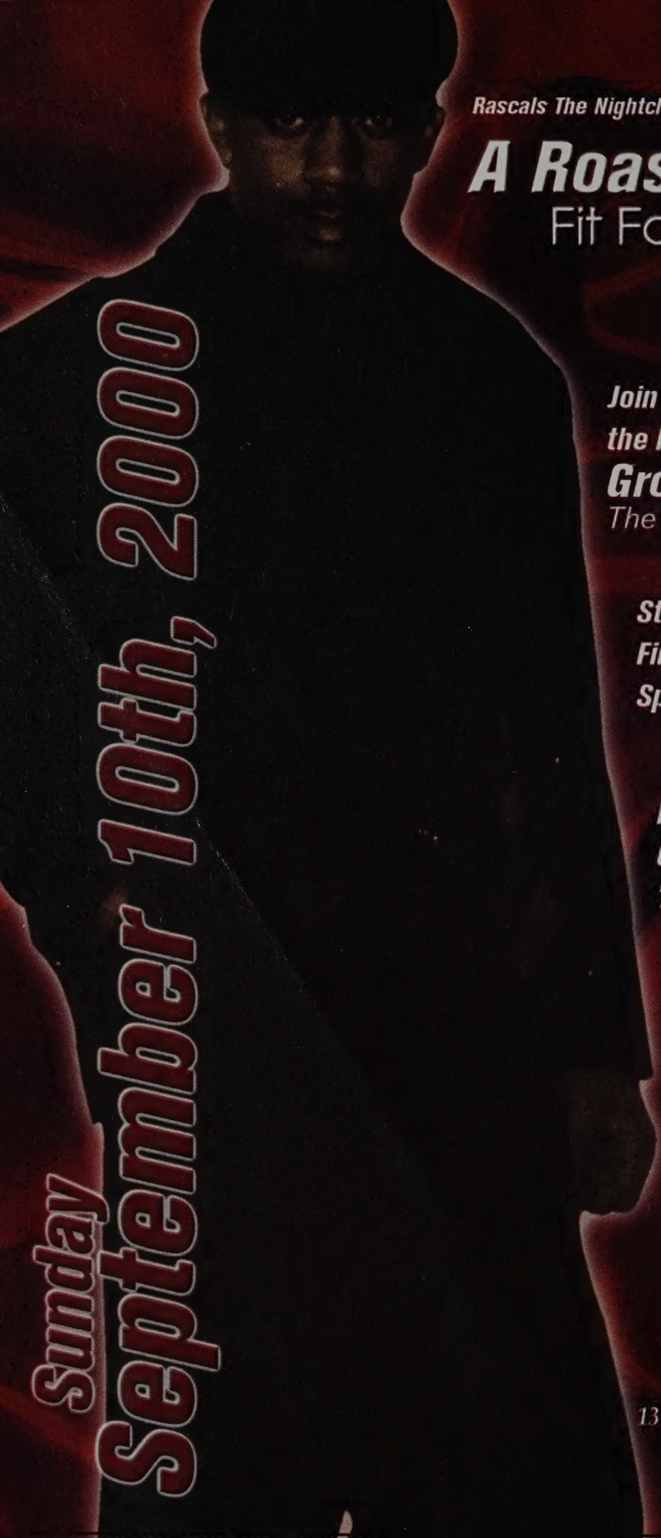

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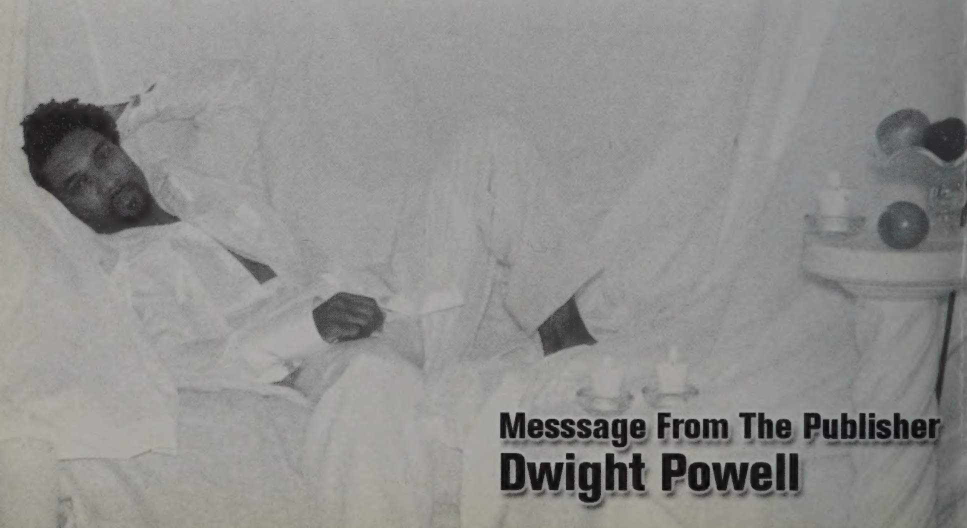
Borrowed Message From Don't Sweat The Small Stuff

Imagine Yourself at Your Own Funeral

This strategy is a little scary for some people but universally effective at reminding us of what's most important in our lives.

When we look back on our lives, how many of us are going to be pleased at how uptight we were? Almost universally, when people look back on their lives while on their deathbed, they wish that their priorities had been quite different. With few exceptions, people wish they hadn't "sweated the small stuff" so much. Instead, they wish they had spent more time with the people and activities that they truly loved and less time worrying about aspects of life that, upon deeper examination, really don't matter all that much. Imagining yourself at your own funeral allows you to look back at your life while you still have the chance to make some important changes.

While it can be a little scary or painful, it's a good idea to consider your own death and, in the process, your life. Doing so will remind you of the kind of person you want to be and the priorities that are most important to you. If you're at all like me, you'll probably get a wake-up call that can be an excellent source of change.



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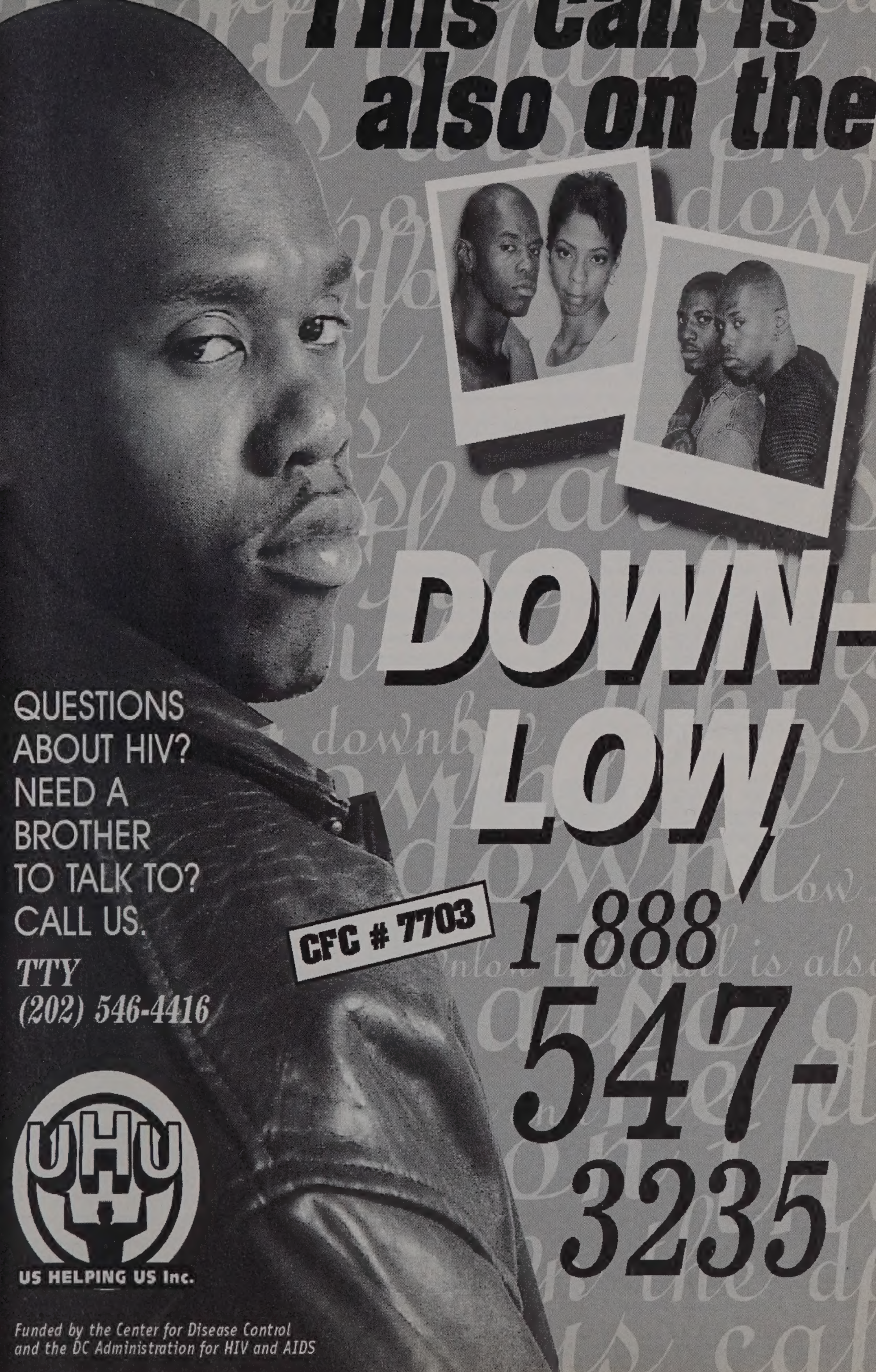

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by **Don Sneed**, HIV/AIDS Editor

Where the Rubber Meets the Road

"An Anti-HIV medication in everyday real world usage."

Since 1994 astounding progress has been made in the treatment of HIV disease. There are now over sixteen (16) different medications that can be used to treat people with HIV infection. These drugs can be used in various combinations with one another and give HIV infected individuals a range of possibilities for treating their HIV infection and slowing disease progression.

Because of the urgency and need to get life saving anti-HIV medications to those who are infected the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) created a drug approval "fast track" for these medicines. The result of this has been twofold. One, life saving medications have been provided for people living with HIV. This has been evidenced by the declining death rates in certain communities. Second, has been a "learn the long term effects of these drugs" on a "as you go" basis. It's something like on the job training. Usually it takes the FDA approximately seven years to approve a medicine after appropriate scientific human trials and clinical studies by the various manufacturers of these medicinal products. This gives the FDA a fairly clear picture of the long-term effects and viability of the medicines. Because of the need to speed the delivery of AIDS medicines to the patients the standard time frame for testing new drugs has been sacrificed in the need to prevent premature death in HIV infected patients. Therefore, the "turnaround time" from research and development to clinical trials to patient consumption has been severely curtailed. This has created a situation where anti-HIV drugs are developed and then tested in humans for approximately a year and barring any severe side-effects or deaths, they are made available to patients. Again, this is a good and bad situation.

A clinical trial give scientists and doctors an opportunity to see if the desired effects of the medicines can be achieved without any undue hardships on patients. Clinical trials are very controlled and exacting. People are recruited for clinical trials based upon certain criteria. Usually, there is a control group that receives a placebo so that a comparison can be made between the two to further determine the efficacy of the tested drugs. The patients are carefully selected, monitored and supported during the trial processes. Oftentimes if patients do not adhere to the strict guidelines and regimens of the trial they are dropped from the process. This results in pharmaceutical companies having optimum data about the effectiveness of the medications. One of the drawbacks to clinical trials, especially, for "fast track" AIDS medicines, are the protocols under which they are conducted. The real every day world is often quite different from the world of the controlled clinical trial.

Being an HIV support care service provider we decided to take a look at the performance of an HIV anti-retroviral medication in the "real world" outside of the clinical trial. Having over 1,000 HIV infected clients we wanted to know how clients were doing after being on a specific anti-HIV drug over a period of time. Over 80% of our clients are African American and many times African Americans are not well represented in the clinical trial processes. Therefore, we think it is important to see how a particular drug is affecting the health of people as they proceed in their everyday lives with all of its attendant problems and issues. It would be great and more than fair were we to have the resources to look at various drugs in combination however, we cannot do that. After canvassing our client files we discovered that many of our clients were taking Viracept (Nelfinavir) as part of their anti-HIV medicinal regimen. Therefore, we made a decision to take a look at Viracept and its performance in African Americans outside of the rigors of the clinical trial process. It is our belief that this is where the "rubber meets the road" when it comes to effectiveness of utilizing anti-HIV medications in the everyday world.

I must caution that we are not medical doctors, scientists or clinicians. We are providers of support care services to people living with HIV disease. Our methodology for constructing this report consisted of review of client files/data, client self reporting regarding side-effects/adherence/compliance and observing client quality of life vis-à-vis complications of multiple daily antiretroviral dosing. We interviewed a total of 103 clients and reviewed their agency files. These clients were randomly selected. Approximately 50% of our clients report using Viracept. The majority of the clients surveyed have been using Viracept for one year or longer. The following are the results of those interviews and reviews:

Gender	Male	Female	Totals
African American	76	7	93
White	3	2	5
Hispanic	3	2	5

CD4 Count @ Intake

CD4	*Number in Study*
0-100	38
101-200	24
201-500	29
500+	12

Current CD4 Count

CD4	*Number In* Study
0-100	4
101-200	19
201-500	61
500+	19

Viral Load @ Intake:

Unknown	26
Undectable	16
500-10K	5
10k>-100K	28

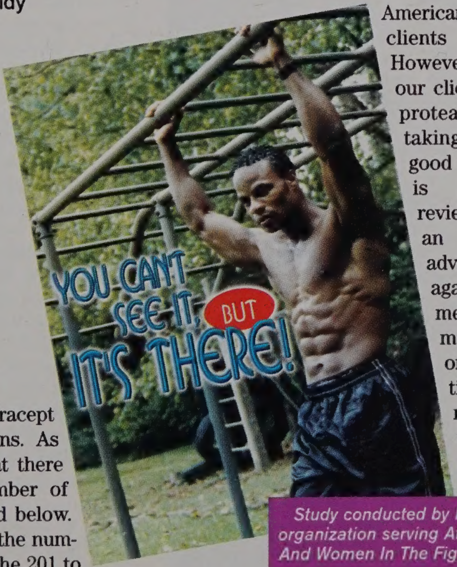
Current Viral Load

Unknown	2
Undectatble	46
500-10K	22
10K> - 100K	24

All of the clients reviewed used Viracept (Nelfinavir) in their anti-HIV regimens. As we reviewed this data we saw that there was an 89% decrease in the number of clients with CD4 counts of 100 and below. There was over a 100% increase in the number of clients with a CD4 count in the 201 to 500 range. There was almost a 200% increase in the number of clients whose viral load became undetectable during the course of the Viracept inclusive anti-HIV regimen. If one carefully reviews this "real world" data it is easy to see that African American HIV infected patients on anti-HIV drug regimens that include Viracept are having significant results that coincide with or exceed the clinical trials results. This is evidenced by lack of hospitalizations, increased quality of life and ease of taking medicines BID (twice daily dosing) as reported by the clients.

Clients have reported to us that the only recurring side effect they have experienced while on Viracept is diarrhea. This side effect is usually controlled by anti-diarrhea medicines or it subsides and goes away. Several clients have reported no adverse side effects whatsoever while on a Viracept inclusive regimen. When asked whether or not they are satisfied with their anti-HIV Viracept inclusive drug regimens 95% of them responded that they are satisfied.

The satisfaction and the clinical results that African Americans are achieving with Viracept (Nelfinavir) have lead us to the conclusion that it is the protease inhibitor of choice for many of them. This is not to say that the other protease inhibitors are ineffective in the treatment of HIV disease in African Americans. Not all of our clients are on Viracept. However, the majority of our clients, who are on a protease inhibitor, are taking Viracept, with good results. Again, this is a non-scientific review/report. It is not an endorsement or advisement for and/or against any particular medication. This is merely a report on one anti-HIV medication out here in the real world where the rubber meets the road. —CM—


YOU CAN'T SEE IT, BUT IT'S THERE!

Study conducted by Renaissance III, an organization serving African-American Men And Women In The Fight Against HIV/AIDS

The model represented in this ad is for illustration only.
His HIV/AIDS status is not known

The Humanity of God

by Rev. Tony Crapolicchi

I heard Dr. Bernie Siegel once say that it wa human nature for us when we see someone with a cast on a broken limb to show that person compassion by asking what happened to them. It i human nature to show concern for someone wh has been injured or hurt. We feel very good abou ourselves when we express that concern and w should. Dr. Siegel also stated that as humans w allow our ability to show compassion for others t be driven by our physical senses. The problem is w cannot always see a broken heart, a wounded soul or emotional turrnoil in those who cross our paths There are hurts much greater in need of our compassion than any broken bone ever could be. know. I've had both, several broken bones and a occasional broken heart in my life as many of u have had, and they both heal over time. Why do w limit our ability to express compassion, kindnes and love, only to those who show physical signs o discomfort? Why do we not smile at the stranger o the street who has a scowl on his face? So man people assume the stranger with the mean look i angry, but how do they know if the stranger is ma or is just terribly troubled? The truth is, they do no know. None of us know . When we avoid smiling a someone whom we think is angry, we are in no wa harming that individual. Because more than likel they have someone who will help them or take car of them. At least that is what we tell ourselves. Th individual who passes us without our smile is totally unaffected by our not showing any signs o human kindness or compassion. We, on the othe hand, are impacted greatly. Because our ability t show compassion, kindness and concern, even t those we do not know, is an avenue for us to expres the infinite love of God. When we ignore an opportunity to do some small act of kindness, we als ignore the opportunity to express God in our lives Dr. Ernest Holmes states, " The only guarantee o our Divinity is in its expression through our humanity." The qualities of the most high, infinite goodness, infinite love, and infinite compassion expres through you and I. God expresses its wonderfu qualities through us as we express those qualities The humanity of God lies in humankind's ability t express its true divinity. The people we pass on th street are our opportunities to express the best o God. A small act of kindness in this physical worl of ours has the same impact as the act of creation i the spiritual world because both acts are expression of God.

A year after the death of my grandmother I was having Thanksgiving dinner in a restaurant with my family. At another table sat a petite African American woman. She was dressed very neatly and simply with her long white hair wrapped in a bun on the top of her head. My guess is she was close to 80. Beside her plate was a Bible. I watched her for a few moments to see if anyone was going to join her, but she continued to eat alone. As I watched her, I realized how much she reminded me of my grandmother. My grandmother always had her Bible with her and wore her hair in a bun on the top of her head. Before she could finish her meal, I asked our waiter to add this lady's check to ours and to please not tell her who paid for her meal only to say it was paid for by someone who wanted to thank her for the memories. As she was leaving, the lady stopped, took my hand and said "thank you". I said, "I asked the waiter not to tell you who bought your dinner". She said, "Honey he didn't". She went on to say that I reminded her of her only grandchild who was killed in an automobile accident with her daughter, her only child, many years ago. She was not thanking me for the meal. She wanted to thank me for the memories.

Two people. One African American; one white. Two, maybe three, generations apart. Each one was looking beyond physical appearance and recognizing the bond of loving, creative intelligence, which resides within the souls of all human beings, and seeing something, feeling something familiar. All brought about by one small act of kindness. The goodness and kindness of the most high will always find a way to express. The question is are we allowing it to express through us? There is an anonymous quote, which states," We are each of us angels with only one wing, and we can only fly by embracing each other".

Our acts of compassion are the means in which our soul takes flight to experience and express the kindness of the most high. Embrace those who you can and expand your consciousness through the power of divinity which resides within you. Stop viewing yourself as a human expression of God and start knowing yourself as the spiritual expression of the eternal goodness and kindness you truly are. We all were born to be a spiritual expression of the eternal goodness of God. In that statement of truth lies the key to your demonstrating a life filled with the love of God We affirm our Divinity with our acts of Humanity. Our acts of kindness performed without the need for recognition or gratitude expand the divinity of our souls to higher levels every time they are performed. Our acts of kindness do not need to be grand gestures or ones that cost money. Acts of kindness and compassion are ripples in a pond, reaching out and expanding to the shores of someone else's consciousness. We may know the impact of that act, or we may not. It doesn't matter. What matters is we are expressing our true divinity through our acts of kindness. What matters is our acts of kindness are affirmations stating " I am a spiritual being expressing the eternal goodness and eternal loving kindness of the most high. Each of us are gifts of light and power to the other, each an angel ofthe most high. This is why in the 91St Psalm the verse reads" God shall give his angels charge over thee". You are the angel which has been sent and your acts of kindness, your displays of compassion are the works of God operating through you. Commit to perform some random act of kindness every day. Smile at a stranger, give a quarter to the fellow holding the "I will work for food" sign (even if you think they're going to buy a beer), but do something which you feel will feed your soul and your consciousness.

Because within these simple acts of humanity lies the affirmation of your true divinity.

Rev. Tony Crapolicchio is the Minister for the Trinity Church of Religious Science which meets every Sunday at 11:00 A.M. in the Neighborhood Playhouse of Decatur. For information call 404-296-6064.

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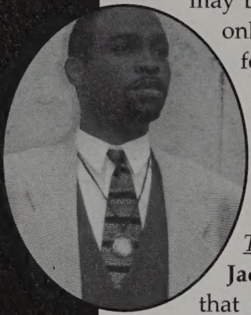
The heat is on and the summer is raging. Although most of the countr may be experiencing a drought, we have found that you thirst n only for water but for what feeds your soul. So we offer to yo food for your soul. In this issue you will find a little light rea ing, excerpts from some of our most prolific and powerful wri ers, current news, and a little something to challenge you hearts and minds.



First, can we talk about love baby?, Well there's a new "*Lu Tale*, "if you haven't heard, we'll talk about it and then **Sherr Jackson** will tell you all about her own personal *love story*. And that isn't enough the **MC Lyte**, **Tisha Campbell**, **Gina Raver** **Angela Means**, and **Michelle Lamar Richards** turn the tables on *sex an love on videotape*. We invite you to delve into the drama of the "*what ha happened? ball* scene in Detroit with **Liz Marshall**, listen to the trials of *Th Hood* with **Jennifer Glover** and discover the possibilities with **Don Snee** and the *rubber and the road*. Once again we open **Queshawn Hayes'** *Doc 655*, to your fantasies. Be inspired by **Darryl!**'s *NubianSpirit* and find you *divine humanity* with **Reverend Tony Crapolicchio**. Participate in the con versation at **Teryl-Lynn Foxx**'s, *Trans-Central Station* and **Doria Shackleford**'s *Transforum*. We've even included a special expose o *AIDS:In Africa*

As you make your way this month take time to feel the summer breez whisp across your body, let the warmth of the sun rejuvenate your cell and let the cool liquid of life refresh you. These are the gifts that creatio offers as you find ways to enjoy yourself and nature. Have fun play har and play safe. Then relax with a good book, **Clikque**.

Enjoy.

Darryl! Moch
Editor

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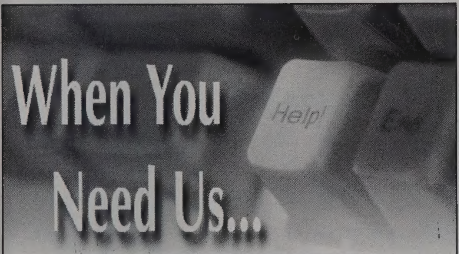

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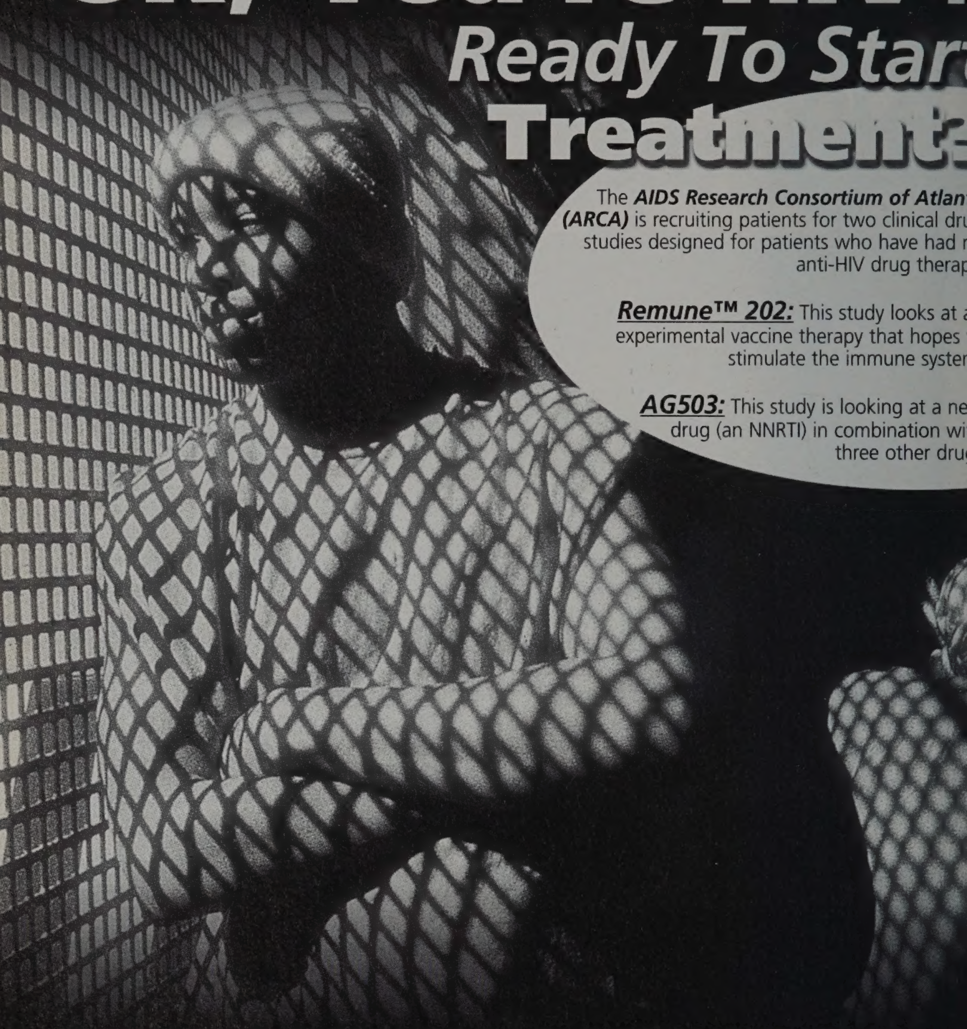

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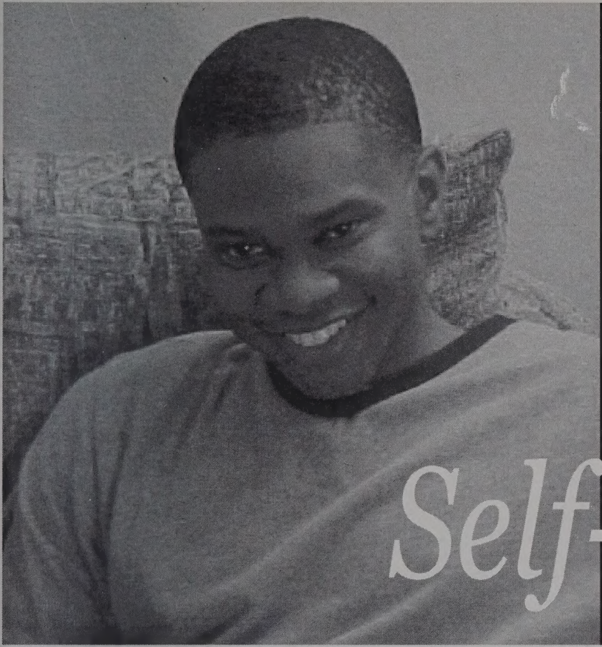


Oscar Franklin on...

Self-love

Self-love. What is it? How do you get it? How do you know you have it? It seems that every intellectual conversation nowadays has some type of reference to self-love. So many people will swear to you that they love themselves but when you ask people what it is, the definition becomes cloudy. Some people define self-love using very shallow selfish examples; while others define it as self-denial and people pleasing. Well, this is the clear, unadulterated definition of what self-love is and what it means to me.

Self-love is how we respect ourselves. That's it. It is not more complicated than that.

When I go to the gym and weight train to combat the aging process and to stay strong, I am demonstrating self-love. When I choose to eat foods that promote my health and stay away from those foods that diminish it, I am demonstrating self-love. I also manifest self-love when I give my body enough rest.

Now, let's get to the complicated issues we face that tend to cloud the simple definition.

Self-love gets hard to understand when other people are involved. For instance, when someone at work is rude or ignores my input, I used to believe that if I didn't address the issue I would be condoning disrespect of myself-not loving myself. This is not true. My self-love is not contingent upon how I think other people should respond to me; they do not define me.

On a more personal level, I also learned that self-love has nothing to do with what another person does to me. I know many people won't agree with this, but self-love is what we "allow" other people to do-not what they do.

Experiencing an abusive relationship doesn't mean I do not have self-love. I only start showing I have no self-love when I choose not to change the situation.

You may experience a partner cheating, but this does not reflect your self-love. You have no control over another person's actions. However, when you become aware of this and allow yourself to live with this, you are not demonstrating self-love.

Several months ago a friend made a comment about my personality. His comment disturbed me and after evaluation I realized it was not based on facts-his conclusion was ignorant.

I felt by not responding to his comment, I showed a lacked of self-love. The truth is, this person's comments do not define me. His feelings are his, completely. However, if he became an important part of my life, "allowing" his comments, that I did not warrant, to continue would show that I lacked self-love.

We must remember that self-love is how we respect ourselves. It is not about how others treat us, but how we "allow" others to continue to treat us. It's hardly ever about the other person.

Carmen

Mi Amore

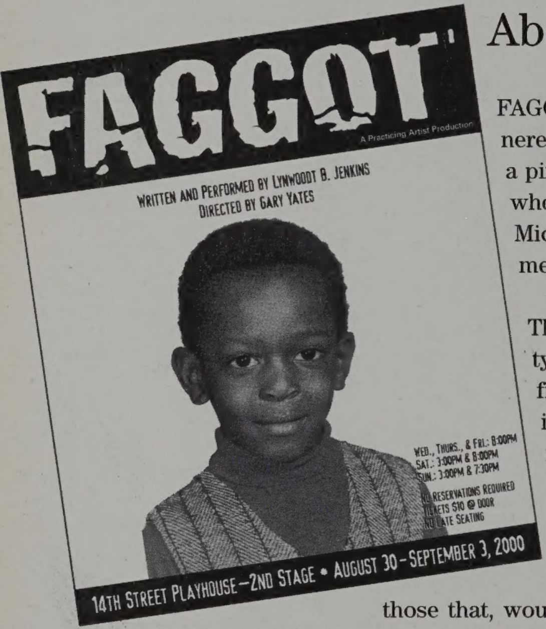
by Sherri Jacksonn

Carmen Mi Amor I spotted Carmen at a dance for women. She was a tall Latina with reddish-brown hair. She had a beautiful smile that showed her dimples when she laughed. I asked Carmen if she wanted to dance. She appeared while we were on the dance floor very classy, bossy, funny, and to be a very lovely lady. Carmen's dance moves were so mesmerizing and intoxicating while we were on the dance floor. Carmen told me later that night she worked in a hair salon, that her dream was to have a huge salon of her own. Carmen was easy to talk to. She took charge of the conversation right away. She was humorous and sensuous. She, later in the talk, dropped the name of the salon where she worked and I took a mental note for future reference . I thought better recall all of this or I was really having a bad hair day in her eyes. When the night came to an end we both said that we would see each other around sometime. I drove by the salon where Carmen worked every day, for two weeks. I was trying to figure out what would I say to her if I saw her, if I went inside the salon. All sorts of thoughts crossed my mind. I had not asked Carmen if she was seeing anyone. What if she was married to a man or woman? What if she was more out than I. I was creating drama before it even got started! I sat in the car 40 minutes trying to calm my nerves before I –nFlt I asked the receptionist if Carmen was an employee and I wanted to speak with her about getting my hair done. The receptionist said, " Carmen is gone for the day miss." "She will return tomorrow at two o'clock." I told her that I would return tomorrow and I thanked her. The next day, Lisa picked up a single yellow rose at the florist to leave at the salon. The accompanying card included my phone number and thanking her for the dance. Lisa asked her i she could see her again. Lisa was somewhat disappointed, she did not see Carmen that day. She hoped the rose and card said enough until they encountered each other again. Later that evening the phone rang while reading a political novel. " Hello Lisa it's Carmen . I thank you for the rose", she said . Lisa responded, "your welcome, a beautiful flower for a beautiful person." There was silence for about thirty seconds. " Lisa would you like to get together for dinner sometime soon ?" Lisa responded affirmatively and we set a date for seven o'clock on Friday at a Thai restaurant . Days passed quickly and Friday rapidly approached. Lisa was running in the house when on the fifth ring she picked up the phone. " Hello Lisa, it is Carmen, I was calling to confirm tomorrow for dinner." " Hello Carmen, I just walked in after a helluva day at work and yes we are on for tomorrow." Lisa was nervous as was inexperienced with women. Carmen was also seven years older than Lisa. Lisa found this out during there talks on the phone Lisa was thinking what was she going to wear. Maybe I should wash the car ? Should she pick up flowers ? No, Lisa thought she would wait on the flowers. It was now 5:30 PM, Lisa decided just to wear some black slacks and penny loafers with a white shirt. That was butch enough for Lisa, for her taste. At 6:15 P.M., Lisa was off to meet Carmen. Little did Lisa know, the date was going to be the experience of a lifetime; an experience she would never forget. When Lisa arrived at the restaurant, Carmen was already seated. She was so beautiful. Carmen was wearing a black ankle length dress and an onyx necklace. “Hi Lisa don’t you look cute”, she said . “Thank you, Carmen,” Lisa responded . She said “ I would have ordered a bottle of wine, but I forgot to ask on the phone if you drink .” Lisa was in a daze thinking that this lady is classy and will probably show me more than I can handle . Lisa replied “ Wine is fine Carmen Zinfandel or Chardonnay. “Lisa was enjoying Carmen’s company. Carmen was so interesting and had quite a sense of humor. She also appeared to be very sensitive, and that’s what Lisa noticed the most. As she asked if there was a certain brand I preferred, I thought to myself, Brand ? I just started a real paying job four months ago.” We had dinner and laughed and talked for two hours. “ Lisa do you have to go to work tomorrow?”, Carmen asked . “ I'm actually off tomorrow, Lisa said . She suggested that we go to the beach. We left the restaurant in our own cars, and I followed her to Ocean Beach. As we began our journey; “Carmen” ,said Lisa,”if we our going to enjoy the beach, you really should get barefoot. “ Take off your shoes dear”. The moon had a glowing yellow reflection, it radiated romance. The reflection highlighted Carmen’s loveliness even more. They walked barefoot and talked for a while. As they walked together, Lisa took Carmen’s hand into her own with ease. Carmen smiled, they spoke of past loves and future dreams. Lisa and Carmen agreed they enjoyed each other and wanted to see each other again Over the next four months, Lisa would leave Carmen a single rose every three days at the salon. For the next four months, she would teach Lisa all the things she had only dreamt of with a woman. Carmen would teach Lisa how to be smooth, tantalizing, romantic, and to let go of her feelings in loving another woman. Carmen would show Lisa how to make love to another woman and not just have sex. They would go to dinner, picnics, and dancing. She would take Lisa with her to the Gay, Latino, and Black community events . Lisa was at work one day when she received a call from Carmen asking if she would like to have dinner with her at her place later that evening. Lisa agreed and told her she would be over around 7:30 PM. Upon entering Carmen’s home, Lisa could see candles burning everywhere. In the living room, playing in the background, she had jazz music playing of piano and saxophone. The smell from the kitchen had an aroma of heavenly spices. The smell of jasmine incense filled the air. Carmen greeted Lisa and asked her about her day at work, and asked if she wanted to get comfortable before dinner . Carmen took Lisa’s hand and led her to the bathroom. A yellow scented candle was burning and the bath water was drawn. She slowly helped me undress and left me alone for about 10 minutes. Carmen returned with a glass of wine and she washed my back. She gave Lisa a black robe with a lovely design on the back, after I finished drying off. All Lisa could do was stand in silence and admire Carmen for her beauty inside and out. She thought maybe she was pass the liking stage now, she possibly was falling in love with Carmen. It scared her the thought of possibly loving Carmen. We then made our way into the kitchen for a candlelight dinner and good conversation. After dinner, we went into the living room and continued our conversation. Carmen laughed and told me that I forgot to drop off a rose this week. Lisa smiled and told her she would make it up to her. Lisa looked down on the floor and noticed red rose petals that led from the living room to the bedroom. Carmen had a bottle of wine chilled in an ice bucket. I was enjoying myself so much with her! Lisa was thinking, “When should I tell her that I may be taking a job back in Chicago and leaving San Diego?” I had a chance to take a better paying job as a Web Designer. I was also running away to find myself.

I wanted all of this I was sharing with Carmen; but, I wanted to offer Carmen so much more in terms of just dating. I wanted her to be my partner; but, I had to feel whole as an individual. If this were true, the picture with Carmen and I would be so grand. It was now 11:30PM, Carmen took my hand and led me into the bedroom. She had red satin sheets on the bed and a candle burning. Carmen rubbed oil on my back and started kissing me all over my body. She looked at me with her beautiful brown eyes and took my hand. “ Lisa I know you are leaving baby, I can feel this.” Carmen had been told in bits and pieces, subtle, hints of Lisa’s departing. “If there was any way that I could make you stay I would do it,” she said. Carmen held me very tightly and added, “If you ever need me remember that I am never far.” Carmen; her embrace touched my soul. Lisa told her, “You are so good to me; maybe, I don’t deserve this type of love you offer me sweetie”. “I am scared. I want to give you so much Carmen.” “I love you already and have.” “You give me everything I’ve wished for,” she responded. She kissed and licked me all over and told me to relax and let go. She did things to me with so much passion and love I had never felt. She continued to kiss and lick me in spots that had not been awakened in years. Carmen would kiss my forehead to toes. She continued to put oil on my body and slowly put her fingers inside of me, between my legs. I moaned loudly with ecstacy. Slowly we continued kissing, touching, and moaning with passion. We acted as if this would be our last time together for a while. Lisa kissed Carmen all over her body. She slowly entered inside of her, with her tongue between her hot spot. When we finished taking each other to heights of passion we held each other until we fell asleep. Lisa had two more months in town. Carmen was ,now, truly aware Lisa was leaving for Chicago. Carmen helped Lisa with packing for her journey and whatever last minute things had to be settled. We spent a lot of time together those last months. It was now September, and today was Lisa’s last day in town. Carmen worked at the Salon that day. Today would be the last day I would take her a single rose until we met again. We stood in front of the the salon and looked at each other in silence. We were both trying to fight the tears. We embraced and kissed for a long time. She held my hand tight and whispered into my ear, “Te Amo mi amor,” (I love you my love) she spoke in spanish. I got into my car, and I looked out of my rear-view mirror at my soul mate. I thought “God, what have I done? What am I about to do that could affect me big time?” Carmen was standing fighting back the tears while waving goodbye to me as I drove away into the sun on my self journey. I thought to myself, if I am ever brave I will return for you. Maybe, I can finally tell you that I love you too. “Carmen, where ever you are, thank you. If I should ever meet my next soul mate, I am not running this time. I am going to let go and relax like you taught me.

OnStage

Atlanta, June 23, 2000: FAGGOT, written and performed by Lynwoodt B. Jenkins, and directed by Gary Yates, will run August 30th September 3th on the second stage at 14th St. Playhouse. No reservations required, and no late seating. Tickets are $10 at the door.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DIRECTED BY GARY YATES
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SAT.: 3:00PM & 8:00PM
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About the Show...

FAGGOT is the story of Michael, well mannered and well behaved, as he is seduced by a pimp walking, afro and attitude cool boy, who forever changes his life. With one kiss Michael runs the gamut as he learns what it means and costs to be both black, and gay.

The play is a poetic expression of stereotypes that are practiced, exposed, and finally explored to the degree of connecting basic human emotions. It is not a representation of all black, same gender loving men. Nor does it aspire to do so. Rather, its' art endeavors only to reflect the life of a select human condition. A reality vulnerable to the perceptions of those that, would or would not, find merit within that life. Inevitably, the work offers itself up as a means unto an end, and not as an end unto itself.

About the Artist...

Lynwoodt B. Jenkins is a writer and actor. His credits range from Avon Books publishing his contribution in the anthology, FIGHTING WORDS, through appearing in the independent film, THE FAN, to voice-over work for Ballethnic Dance Company's, THE LEOPARD'S TALE. He has written and directed three stage plays. Two of which gleaned encore performances at Morehouse College, Clark-Atlanta University and Emory University. As a graduate of the School of Actor's Express, Lynwoodt is also a "Meisner Instructor."

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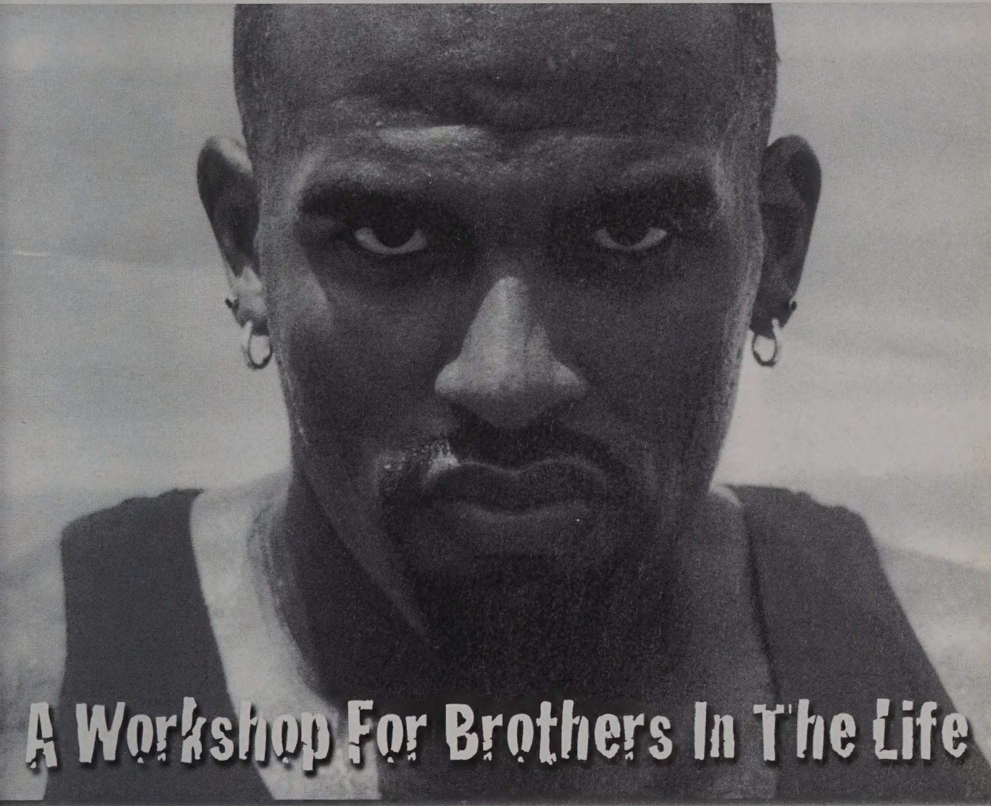

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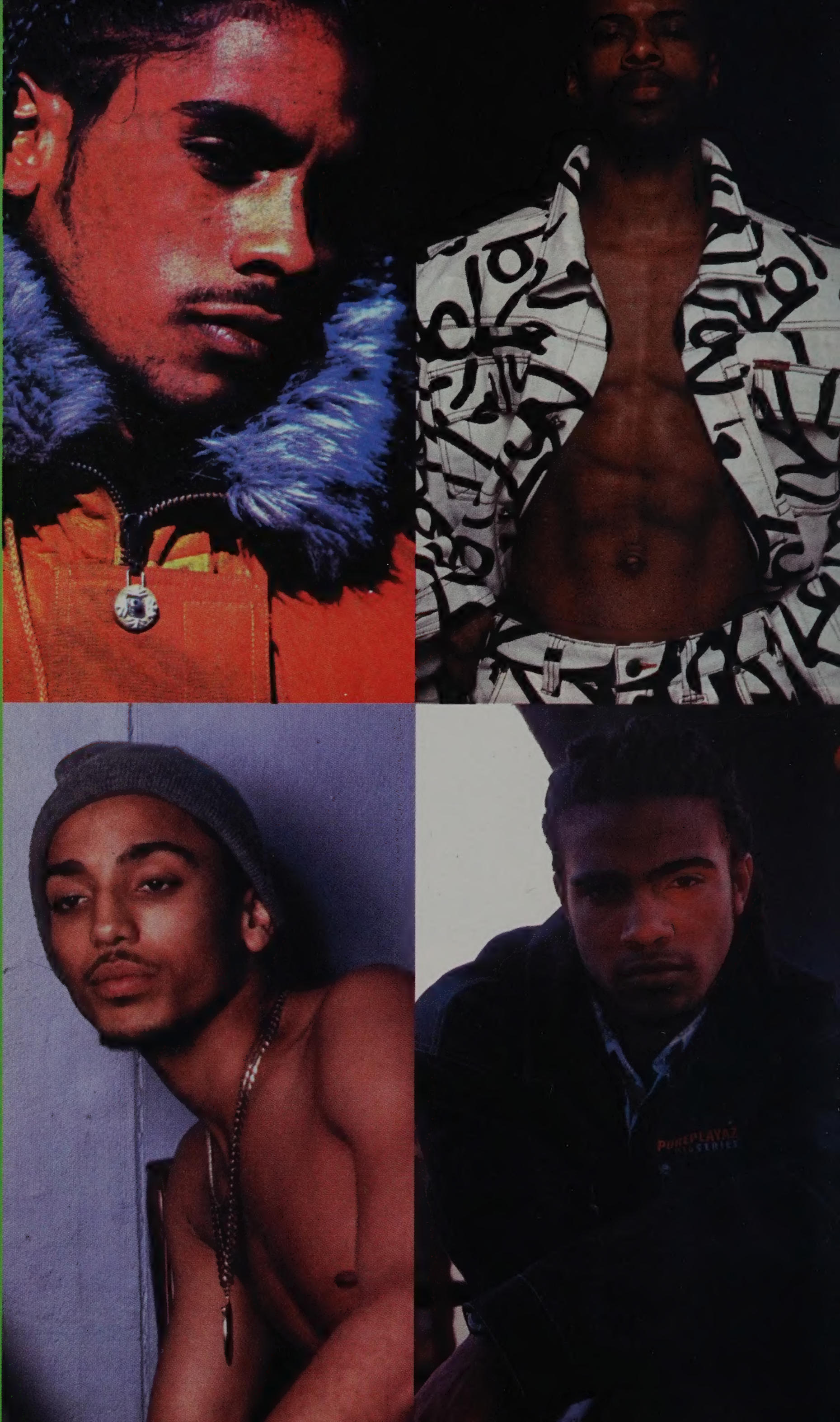
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All Systems Gone
Ark 21

Stateside fans have waited a long time for All Systems Gone, the debut album from the six piece London collective Presence. Originally recorded nearly two years ago, it is just now receiving a US release, after the success of the singles "Better Day" and "Sense of Danger." Best described as a more housed-up combination of Massive Attack and Everything But the Girl, Systems separates itself from most dance albums by focusing on song construction with solid hooks. In addition to the aforementioned singles, the bouncy "Matter of Fact," featuring former Massive Attack vocalist Shara Nelson, could be the next hit from the record if remixed properly. Perhaps not wanting to be labeled strictly a house band, Presence does a good job of providing sonic variety via the downtempo "Your Spirit" and "This is You," moody pieces strategically placed to showcase their diversity.

Not quite the deep house album the text on the cover claims, Systems is a fine record that walks the middle ground between dancefloor sensibility and home listening with success and should appeal to a wide variety of people.

DWAYNE WIGGINS
Eyes Never Lie
Motown

This is Wiggins' first record, but you've undoubtedly heard him before. He was a member of the r&b combo Tony Toni Tone, but deservedly took a backseat to brother Raphael Saadiq's skills. Creative differences caused the band to split, and now Wiggins gets his time to shine. Not being sure of what to expect, I was pleasantly surprised by the opening five tunes, which reveal Wiggins as a above average practitioner of neosoul grooves, as on "R & B Singer" and his take on the Billie Holiday classic "Strange Fruit," "What's Going On." These are worthwhile tunes that grab your attention. Where he falters is the string of slow jams during the second half of the disc, where the less imaginative backing tracks can't obscure the fact that he's not the most distinctive singer. Nevertheless, he shows promise here and should be worth keeping your eye on in the future.

ZION I
Mind Over Matter
Ground Control/Nu Gruv

The latest entry into the field of conscious rap comes from Zion I, a crew from Oakland with roots in Atlanta. As befits their cross country origins, they merge west coast and southern rhyming patterns and styles to create a unique blend. Their spiritual focus is present all over the disc, from the David Axelrod-inspired opening "Creation" and titles like "Elevation" to the criticisms of materialism "A Little Changee" and "Fools Gold."

Their progressive slant on hip-hop extends to the bold experiments with drum n bass on the slamming "Inner Light," a tune guaranteed to get audiences energized. The quality of the music here combined with their energetic performance skills should create a buzz that will hopefully bring these brothers the attention they deserve. People looking for something to put in the cd changer alongside Mos Def, Outkast and Common should check for this. You won't be disappointed.

VARIOUS ARTISTS
Go Deep with Julius Papp - Volume 2
Maxi

The second installment of the Maxi Records showcase series is put together by respected west coast jock Julius Papp. In this mix, Papp takes you on a 70 minute ride through some of the smoothest, most delightful underground sounds of recent times. Maxi is a label renowned for its quality, but standout tracks here are the exquisite "Feel What You Know" by Big Muff with its lightly Spanish feel, Nikki St. Nicholas' anthem "Music Is My Life," and the pure gospel vibe of Soul Movement's "Something About the Music."

In addition to the music, what makes Go Deep so enjoyable is Papp's mixing talents, riding the e.q. and using backspins to create exciting live blends that lead to some revelatory moments. But instead of using these skills as an unnecessary display of showing off, Papp's weaving of the a capella lines from "Music Saved My Life" and "The Way We Used To" by Cevin Fisher place the attention and respect where it rightfully belongs ñ on the music. Exquisite grooves, excellent mixing ñ what more can you want on a mix disc? An instant party enhancer.

ENTERTAIMENT**NEWS**

Clikque Magazine

by Anthony Rucker

It looks like all the speculation over **Bobby Brown's** problems has been answered. Mr. Houston pled guilty to a violation of his probation and is serving 75 days in a Florida jail. Brown was quoted as saying "I am an addict. I am an alcoholic." Hopefully this time will allow him the reflection and help he needs to conquer his demons and get his career back on track ..Meanwhile Bobby's wife **Whitney Houston** is moving on with her plans to remake the 70s black classic Sparkle.

Popular writer **E. Lynn Harris** is writing the script and **Aaliyah** will play the lead role in the film, being produced by **Warner Brothers** and **Houston's Brownhouse Productions.**

In other film news, **Sisgo** is making his debut in the teen flick **Getting Over Allison** and **Toni Braxton** adds the big screen to her resume with Kingdom Come, starring **Vivica Fox, LL Cool J** and **Whoopi Goldberg**.

Legends **Danny Glover** and **Pam Grier** have signed to work on the latest effort from **Spike Lee's** 40 Acres and a Mule company, Thr3 AM, a story about New York cab drivers. Spike has also commissioned the services of **Stevie Wonder, Mos Def, Prince** and **Erykah Badu** for the soundtrack of his next movie Bamboozled.

These are mixed times for **James Brown**. The Godfather of Soul is the focus of an exhibit in the new Experience Music Project museum in Seattle, but he's dealing with his business being recently besieged by arson and now he's been sued for sexual harassment by former employee Lisa Ross Aybalaya. In the million dollar suit, the former President of West Coast Operations claims Brown demands sex from female employees and made repeated unwanted advances and comments

After years of confusion, Prince has decided to reclaim his name and celebrated recently with a week long series of tours of his studio and nightly concerts.

During his final show, **Prince** was joined by **Mint Condition, Q Tip** and **Angie Stone**, along with members of his previous group the **Revolution**. Prince is also developing a line of sampling discs for producers to use.

Grace Jones is making a welcome comeback! The diva signed a deal with MCY.com for two records, the first of which will be released this year. Can't wait to hear her take on today's music. Miss Jones has not had a record in eight years.

Diana Ross may have wished she got **Mary Wilson** and **Cindy Birdsong** to participate in her tour. Early word is that sales for the Return to Love tour are not going as well as anticipated, and replacement Supreme Scherrie Payne herself said that Mary and Cindy should be the ones on stage.

Finally, a crucial event in hip-hop is happening in August with the first **SisterPhyre 2000** conference, a 4 day convention focusing on women in hip hop. In addition to seminars on misogyny, making it in the business, and a tribute to the female legacy in hip-hop, there will be performances from the likes of **MC Lyte, Jazzy Joyce** and **Big Lez**. SisterPhyre will be in Atlanta and you can get more information on **www.sisterphyre.com.** Get on it early, pre-registration ends July 23.

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PHOTO: TIM WILKERSON

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thanks to Stephan Hull for the 2000 Event Logo

Thank you to Bill Austin @ Image photo.com for the use of his photographs all year long

The Festival Tents are gone and Piedmont Park is clean. The 300,000+ men, women, boys, girls, moms, dads, brothers, sisters, friends and family have gone back to every day life... More Energized, More Aware, and More Committed then ever before!

Yes it was hot, The drizzle on Sunday was welcome, That fantastic RAINBOW that appeared over the festival site from the MARKET to THE SHOWTIME STAGE just after the B-52's performed was a great affirmation of who we are!

PRIDE 2000 was the largest festival ever with over 250 Market Place booths, nearly 200 registered floats, cars, and marchers in the 2.5 hour PRIDE Parade. Thanks Atlanta for making the 30th annual Atlanta Pride Festival a huge success!

The festival would not have been as wonderful without the help of the hundreds of Volunteers, Our Corporate Sponsors, and our special Friends of Pride Sponsors!

**A heartfelt THANKS to all of you from
The Atlanta Pride Committee!**

www.atlantapride.org

Check our website in mid July ,get the on-linewrap up, Family Photo Album 2000 courtsey of ImagePhoto.com, Take the PRIDE POLL 2000 and much more!

RUDY GALINDO Joins The National Minority AIDS Counsil In National HIV ANEMIA Awareness Campaign

Targeting GAY and Hispanic Communities

HIV Positive Figure Skater Enters New Arena - Patient Advocacy

Washington, D.C., June 19 - United States figure skating champion Rudy Galindo is joining forces with the National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC) as spokesperson for its third national HIV anemia awareness campaign. The campaign, being launched today, targ' gay and Hispanic audiences through print and radio public service announcements featuring Galindo, a toll-free number (1-888-321 -AIDS) and information on-line at www.nmac.org.

"As a professional figure skater who is HIV positive, I know the toll that fatigue and anemia can take on a person's body and outlook on life," said Galindo. "HIV-related anemia can make a person feel so tired that they can't work, have the energy to spend time with family and friends or even get out of bed. It can be devastating. I want people to know that anemia can be easily diagnosed by a simple red blood cell count and is also easily treatable."

Galindo, who recently finished a tour across America with Champions on Ice, is most well-known for winning the 1996 U.S. Championship in his hometown of San Jose. At 26, he was the oldest skater in 70 years to win the U.S. title. An openly gay MexicanAmerican, Galindo publicly announced his HIV status in March, and is committed to HIV prevention and treatment education. In May, 2000, NMAC named him Honorary Co-Chair of its organization.

This year's campaign, featuring Galindo, is NMAC's third HIV anemia awareness campaign, and the first to feature an HIV positive spokesperson. Former campaign spokespersons include model/actress Daisy Fuentes and former U.S. Surgeon General, Dr. Joycelyn Elders.

"Rudy has shown great courage in disclosing his HIV status and publicly raising awareness of this disease," said Paul Kawata, Executive Director of NMAC. "We are thrilled to have him as a champion for our organization and for important issues like HIV-related anemia."

Kawata noted that HiV and AIDS is disproportionately affecting communities of color. In fact, blacks and Hispanics account for 77 percent of new adult female HIV cases and 58 percent of new adult male HIV cases.* He believes that Galindo's participation in the campaign will help reach these audiences.

While many people with HIV are living longer thanks to new medications, their lives can be impacted by conditions such as anemia, which affects as many as 95 percent of people living with HIV during the course of their disease.

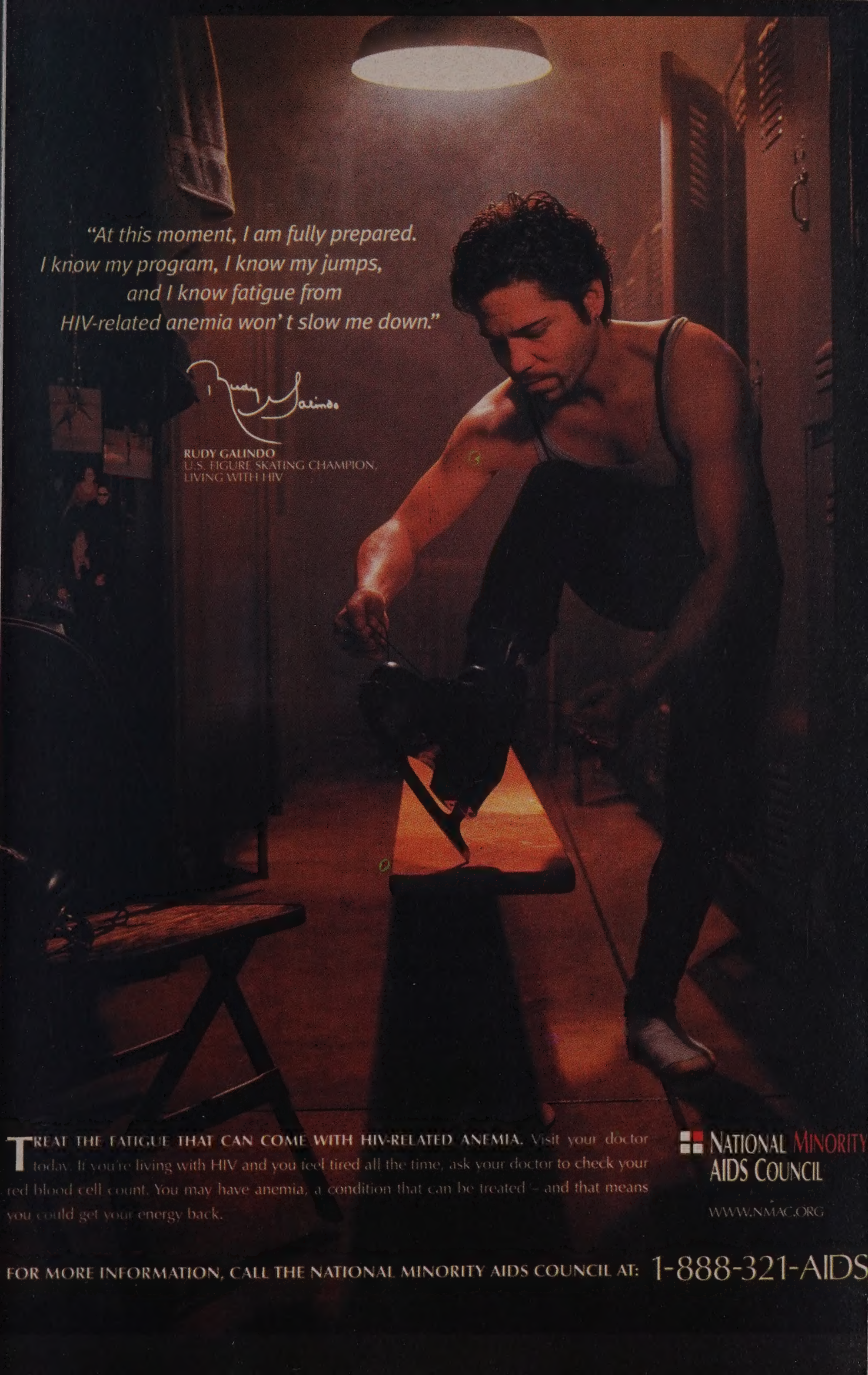
"NMAC encourages people living with HIV and AIDS to see their healthcare provider for a red blood cell count if they are feeling especially tired," said Kawata. "We want people to begin to monitor their red blood cell count in the same way they keep track of their T-cells and viral load," he added.

Anemia occurs when the body has an abnormally low level of red blood cells and is a common complication of HIV/AIDS and its treatments. It can be caused by the virus itself or by certain HIV/AIDS treatments that suppress the bone marrow, among other factors. Anemia is diagnosed by a simple blood test.

Symptoms of HIV-related anemia include extreme tiredness (known as fatigue), shortness of breath, headaches, difficulty concentrating and loss of appetite or sex drive. People suffering from anemia may feel tired, weak, drained or "wiped out," frequently lacking the energy to get out of bed or perform everyday tasks - such as cooking cleaning, taking a shower or making the bed. Unfortunately, many sufferers may not know that they are anemic, attributing their symptoms to HIV/AIDS itself.

The components of the national campaign include print public service announcements featuring Galindo that will appear in gay, Hispanic and HIV/AIDS treatment publications. The campaign also includes a radio public service announcement featuring Galindo that will air on urban contemporary stations and stations targeting Hispanic audiences.

Located in Washington, D.C., the National Minority AIDS Council was formed in 1987 to develop leadership within communities of color to address the issues of HIV/AIDS. Its constituency is composed of more than 3,000 community-based organizations that deal with AIDS on the front lines - in hospitals, clinics, shelters, storefronts and the streets. Thousands of men and women of color rely on such organizations for outreach, care, education, housing and support services. NMAC's goals are to lend visibility, leadership, educational messages and materials, comprehensive technical assistance and a powerful national voice to these front line workers.



"At this moment, I am fully prepared.
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HIV-related anemia won't slow me down."

Rudy Galindo

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TREAT THE FATIGUE THAT CAN COME WITH HIV-RELATED ANEMIA. Visit your doctor today. If you're living with HIV and you feel tired all the time, ask your doctor to check your red blood cell count. You may have anemia, a condition that can be treated – and that means you could get your energy back.

NATIONAL MINORITY
AIDS COUNCIL

WWW.NMAC.ORG

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL THE NATIONAL MINORITY AIDS COUNCIL AT: 1-888-321-AIDS

Clikque Magazine splashes ashore At Tampa Jamz 2000

TAMPA JAMZ
2000

Clikque recently presented its Tampa Jamz 2000 festivities in Tampa, Florida, June 9-11. As promised Clikque offered it's guests great fun in the sun. With guests from around the country and the world Tampa was on fire with our light as we lit up the Tampa skyline with our own flare of excitement.

Our guests were welcomed at our meet and greet reception where we struck up conversations and made connections. Then we traveled over to the Factory/Garage where our fabulous folk danced the night away with two fun filled rooms of house, hip-hop and dance tracks.

On Saturday we found our spot in the sun at the Ft. DeSoto Beach, Clikque gave away subscriptions, trips to next year's Splash and this year's Labor Day activities in our home Hotlanta, along with other cash and prizes including feature model search, body contests, and the wet speedo contest. Of course we tapped off the night with a great Citrus Twist event co-sponsored by Smirnoff where we gave away free samples of Citrus Twist drinks and we danced into oblivion at Club Atlanta.

On Sunday we joined the crowds and braved intermittent douses of rain as we took on the adventures at Busch Gardens. Many of Tampa Jammers walked the park and rode the rides as Clikque Magazine had it's day in the Gardens. Clikque Magazine would like to thank those who joined us for this weekend and we hope that you enjoyed Tampa Jamz. We are excited about the plans already underway for 2001. Join us when we repeat Tampa Jamz, the never ending party weekend on the Central-Florida coast.

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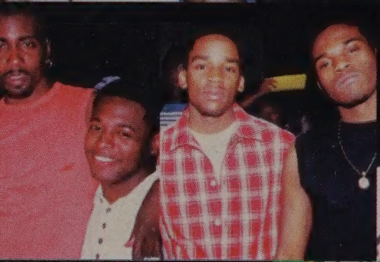

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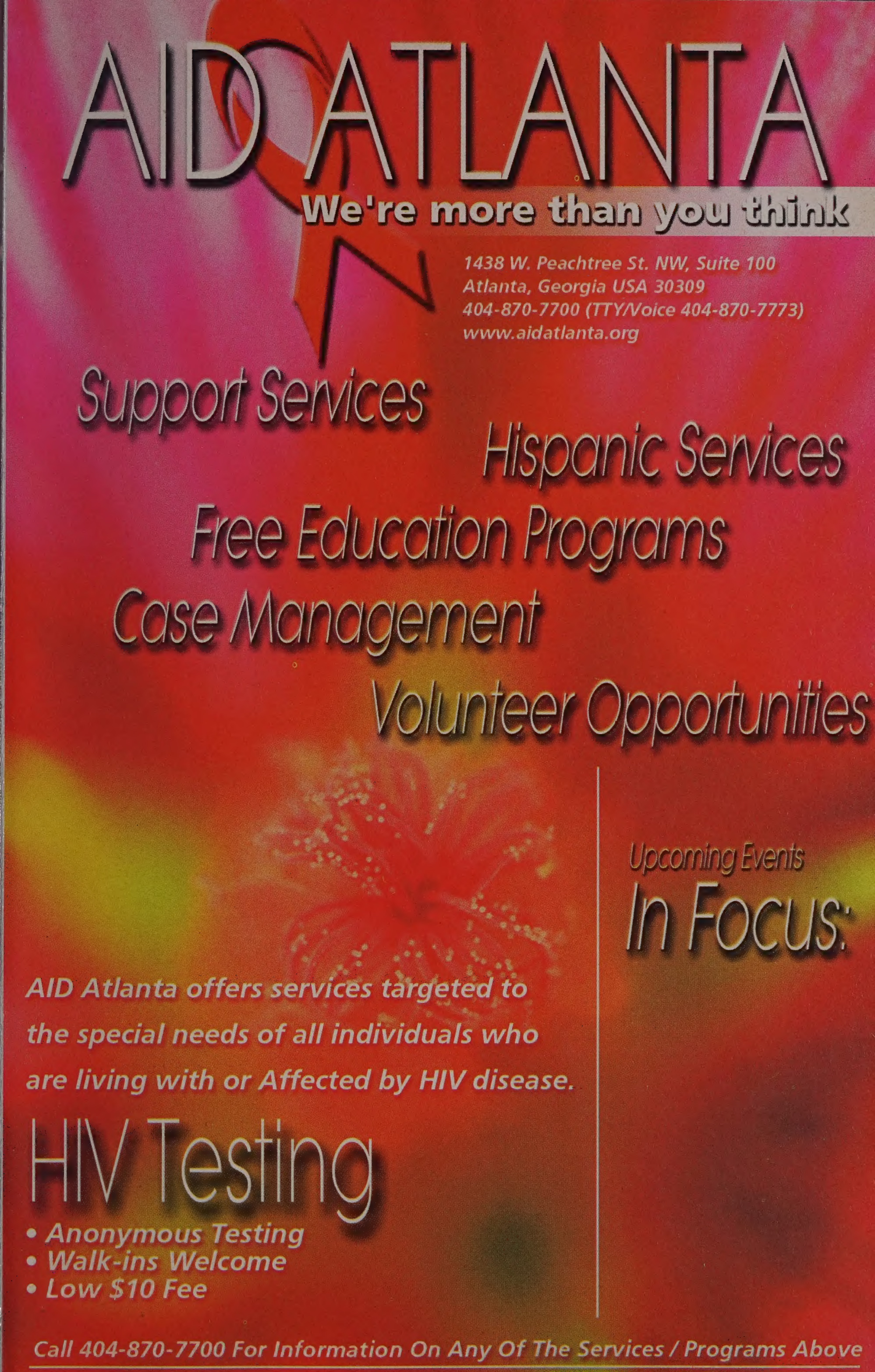

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FEATURE

A LUV Tale

Story & Interviews By Darryl!

A LUV Tale

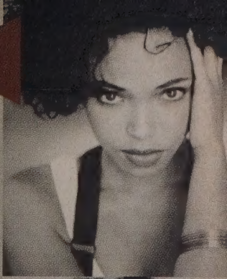
FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM

For thousands of years we have told and retold many tales of love, the search for love, and of various romantic courtships. Stories like Romeo and Juliet, Cinderella, Cyrano De Bergerac, David and Bethsheba, Sampson and Delila, not to mention the sundry tales of the Greek and Roman gods and goddesses in their quests for companionship. All of that not-with-standing, not until Sidra Smith and a choice select cast and producers embarked on their tale of love have we seen such an exquisite fabric of lives and romance as we see in the feature short film *A Luv Tale* (available at **www.aluvtale.com**), written, directed, and produced by Sidra Smith.

Sidra Smith
(writer, director, producer)

A Luv Tale, is not just any love story. It is not a "x" meets "y" and "x" and "y" get together and live happily ever after. But is an intricately woven masterpiece of how two strong willed professional women, making their way in the world, meet and fall in love. Filled with mounting moments of anticipation, stunning sensuality, and and an abundance of twists and curves to keep the avid connoisseur of movies wrapped up and captivated from beginning to end. *A Luv Tale* ,is not just a movie short, it is an opportunity to see real love between two real people told in a very very real way. Sidra Smith confesses that her motivation for this film was a desire to see "the beauty of it." " I was tired of people putting the gays and lesbians in a negative light." She continues by pointing out the fact we all know too well that the depiction of GLBT persons as "not having good relationships or that they could not be beautiful and sensual."

Clikque got a chance to meet with the creator, producers, and cast of *A Luv Tale* recently just to find what motivated them and what they believe is the significance of this film. We spoke with ***Sidra Smith*** (writer, director, producer), ***Tisha Campbell-Martin*** (executive producer), and cast members ***Gina Ravera, Michelle Lamar Richards, Tichina Arnold, Angela Means***, and the urban legend ***MC Lyte***. Sidra Smith states that she wanted to



Martin, A Luv Tale Executive Producer

The Body Guard, Gabriel's Fire

shine a light on what she knows exists from relationships she's witnessed, that gays and lesbians have good relationships. "I wanted people to see the sensuality and sincerness of homosexuality. I was tired of seeing the stereotypes."

All of the women we spoke to got involved in the cast because of a connection to Sidra Smith. This began as a dream, as a vision, of what movies could be and do in making changes in how people see people and respect people. Of Sidra Smith they say, "She always said she had a story to tell..so all of her friends said 'go ahead,'...she's a determined little cookie..." states cast member Tichina Arnold. "I've known Sidra since she was 16," states Tisha Campbell-Martin, " I'm only slightly older than her. I knew she wanted to do this. I saw a reading of the script and I said 'whatever I can do I will...'" and thus Campbell-Martin became the executive producer.

Michelle Lamar Richards, however was approached by a casting agent she says she read the script because "it was a character driven piece. Which is wonderful especially in an industry where women are usually props. This (*A Luv Tale*) was lovely. People fall in love and it doesn't matter... especially [for] black women who are usually momma's or hard edged and don't show vulnerability. Hollywood doesn't really engage with women of color, unless you have a writer who involves them and get [their] culture, history, and motion [in to it]. If the public gets to see more about women of color then they won't pigeon hole us in Hollywood."

Gina Ravera
Showgirls, SoulFood, Kiss The Girls

"I'm and actress," MC Lyte pronounces definitively, "that's what I do. I think that people are happy to to see us in a forum that's not like every mainstream movie. I wanted to do a piece of reel that could display my acting. I'm proud to be a part of the ongoing action."

As we delved deeper into the iconoclastic nature of the significance of this film; which no matter how you splice it will always be a movie about two women who fall in love (hence lesbian love and romance). Although there are men in the film the film is neither driven or centered around the male energy connected with it. So no male fantasies or sexual innuendo, jut pure courtship and love between two women looking for companionship and freedom from

continues on next page

Tisha Campbell-
"Martin", A Luv Tal
Producer

MC Lyte
Hip Hop Legend goes Hollywood,
In The House, NY Undercover

Tichina Arnold
Martin, Ryan's Hope,
All My Children

Ajai Saunders
Martin, The Jamie Foxx Show,
The Fresh Prince

the constraints of loveless relationships.

Gina Ravera approached the role in its most pure form... "The art of humanity...the review of human life..." She asked the questions "what's going on with this person's reality, how do I play this in their reality so it's not just a reflection of me. Even though every character is a part of you, it's an extension of you." Ravera goes on to state that the demand for this film is based on the fact that "there are a lot of women dying to see themselves reflected. Sidra wanted to do this. So helping her realize this vision was exciting for me." "Any backlash I get from playing a lesbian, that's indicative of peoples issues, not mine. We live in too complex of a society to focus on such small things. I played a character (in *A Luv Tale*) that represents real people and if people don't want to work with me because of this they're too small and I don't want to work with them anyway."

Campbell-Martin adds "the wonderful thing about our piece is that it's not something explored enough, especially in the African-American community...you want to create a buzz in Hollywood and when we were getting a lot of attention from people outside of the gay community we knew we had a winning piece." Campbell-Martin repudiates any notion that her involvement will be anything but positive for her career. "You make choices. If the story is true and meaningful and it teaches people and touches them you cannot go wrong. It's (*A Luv Tale*) a great piece. You either love it or not. It's good. I'm happy I am a part of it."

rtin
xecutive

Gina Ravera
Showgirls, SoulFood,
Kiss The Girls

Angela Means
Friday, In Living Color, House
Party III, My Cousin Skeeter

Sidra Smith
A Luv Tale's writer,
producer & director

Like Campbell- Martin, all of the women involved stated they had no concern about any backlash in their careers, Tichina Arnold points out "This subject matter is what people go through. There are women who love each other and women who fall in love with each other. It's not a gay film...its two women who fall in love. It's no difference to me. It's true and is another subject matter that true and people can relate to it." Arnold goes on to say that what is important about this movie and others like it in bridging the gap is "how you tell it. If I had a homophobic friend and I wanted to open his mind I'm not going to show him a porno film. I'll show him a story (like this one, ***A Luv Tale***). A lot of times people are ignorant to what they don't know because society only allowed them to know so much. Therefore the gay community is expressing itself. It has worked hard to show the truth (despite the rumor). People are learning more and accepting more," Arnold finishes.

Alex Thomas
The Player's Club,
B.A.P.S., Malcom &
Eddie

Angela Means states she got excited about the

continues on page 75

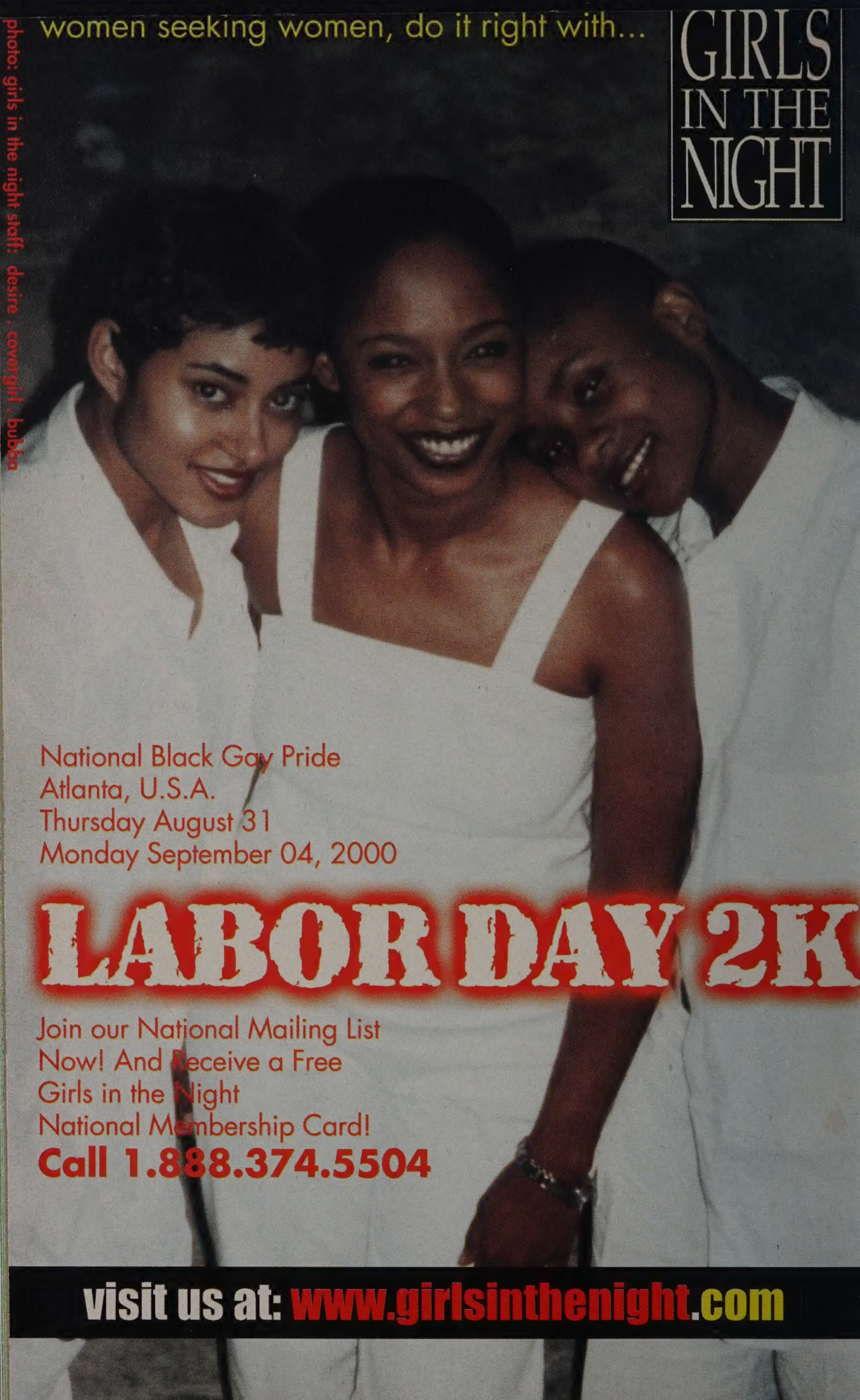


photo: girls in the night staff: desire . covergirl . bubba

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AIDS: africa in peril

Dying by the numbers

In coming to grips with AIDS, the worst health calamity since the Middle Ages and one likely to be the worst ever, consideration inevitably turns to the numbers.

According to UNAIDS, an umbrella group for five U.N. agencies, the World Bank and the World Health Organization, 33.6 million people in the world have AIDS -- 23.3 million of them in sub-Saharan Africa. More than 16 million have died from AIDS, 3.6 million of them children under the age of 15.

Among the other statistics:

¥5.6 million new AIDS infections in 1999, 3.8 million of them in Africa.
¥2.6 million dead of AIDS in 1999, 85 percent of them in Africa.
¥13 million children orphaned by AIDS, 10 million of them in sub-Saharan Africa. Reduced life expectancy in sub-Saharan Africa from 59 years to 45 between 2005 and 2010, and in Zimbabwe from 61 to 33.
¥More than 500,000 babies infected in 1999 by their mothers -- most of them in sub-Saharan Africa.

Finally, this: the bubonic plague is reckoned to have killed about 30 million people in medieval Europe. The U.S. Census Bureau projects that AIDS deaths and the loss of future population from the deaths of women of child-bearing age means that by 2010, sub-Saharan Africa will have 71 million fewer people than it would otherwise.

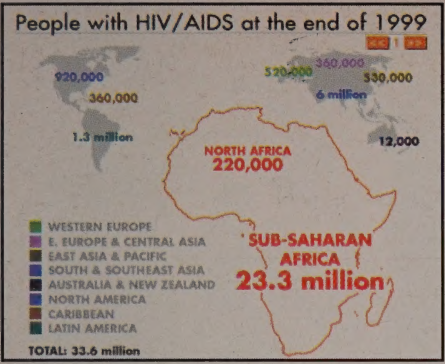
The numbers are staggering, but they do not begin to encompass the suffering and the dramas that put faces on the epidemic.

"We think we are animals"

One face belonged to Gugu Dlamini, a South African woman who admitted on television on World AIDS Day that she had AIDS. When she returned to her home, she was beaten to death by fellow villagers.

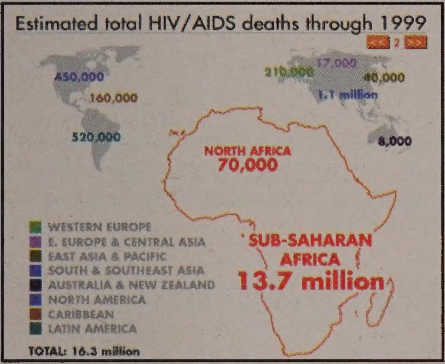
Another belongs to a Ugandan girl named Kevina who lost both parents and her aunts and uncles to AIDS. Although just 14, Kevina must care for four younger brothers, three younger sisters and her blind, 84-year-old grandfather. They have no money, food, health care or transportation. Their roof leaks and other villagers sometimes steal their firewood.

"The teacher calls us orphans," Kevina writes in



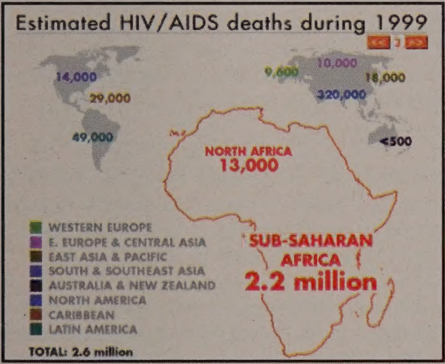
People with HIV/AIDS at the end of 1999

920,000
360,000
1.3 million
520,000
360,000
530,000
6 million
12,000
NORTH AFRICA 220,000
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA 23.3 million
WESTERN EUROPE
E. EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA
EAST ASIA & PACIFIC
SOUTH & SOUTHEAST ASIA
AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND
NORTH AMERICA
CARIBBEAN
LATIN AMERICA
TOTAL: 33.6 million



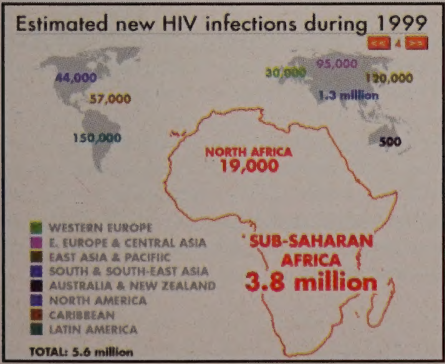
Estimated total HIV/AIDS deaths through 1999

450,000
160,000
520,000
210,000
17,000
40,000
1.1 million
8,000
NORTH AFRICA 70,000
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA 13.7 million
WESTERN EUROPE
E. EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA
EAST ASIA & PACIFIC
SOUTH & SOUTHEAST ASIA
AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND
NORTH AMERICA
CARIBBEAN
LATIN AMERICA
TOTAL: 16.3 million



Estimated HIV/AIDS deaths during 1999

14,000
29,000
49,000
9,600
10,000
18,000
320,000
<500
NORTH AFRICA 13,000
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA 2.2 million
WESTERN EUROPE
E. EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA
EAST ASIA & PACIFIC
SOUTH & SOUTHEAST ASIA
AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND
NORTH AMERICA
CARIBBEAN
LATIN AMERICA
TOTAL: 2.6 million



Estimated new HIV infections during 1999

44,000
57,000
150,000
30,000
95,000
120,000
1.3 million
500
NORTH AFRICA 19,000
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA 3.8 million
WESTERN EUROPE
E. EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA
EAST ASIA & PACIFIC
SOUTH & SOUTH-EAST ASIA
AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND
NORTH AMERICA
CARIBBEAN
LATIN AMERICA
TOTAL: 5.6 million

a letter published by the United Nations Development Program, "but I don't want that name. Even other children don't want that name. We think we are animals."

Increasingly sophisticated treatments have cut the death AIDS death rate in the industrialized countries, but elsewhere the epidemic is gathering momentum.

Infections in the former Soviet Union have doubled in the past two years. Journalist Patricia Thomas, author of a forthcoming book on the search for an AIDS vaccine called "Big Shot," says that "... in India and China, the world's most populous nations, their epidemics have just gotten off the ground."

The focus at the moment, however, is on sub-Saharan Africa, where 10 of the 11 infections that take place each minute occur, where in some countries teachers, doctors and nurses are dying faster than they can be replaced, and where treatment ranges from inadequate to non-existent.

A loaded word

AIDS was first identified in 1959 in what was then the Belgian Congo. Frank Vogl of Transparency International, which tracks corruption in governments, says that until the late 1980s "many African nations were in total denial. They thought we in the West were trying to fool them. They said, 'That's your problem. We've got other things to worry about.' I don't hear that rhetoric much any more."

Although governments are mobilizing -- including Botswana, Zimbabwe, Namibia and Swaziland where AIDS is the worst -- they sometimes take their own approach to the problem.

In South Africa, where one of every 10 people has AIDS, President Thabo Mbeki has confounded many by opposing the use of AZT, one of the most successful AIDS drugs, and by appointing an AIDS council that lacks medical researchers or AIDS experts.

"We know the government will intervene, and massively," says Dr. Robert Shell of the Population Research Unit at Rhodes University in Grahamstown, South Africa, "but the pandemic marches forward. Every day we get 1,700 new cases."

Factors contributing to the spread of AIDS include poverty, ignorance, the prohibitive cost of AIDS drugs, an aversion to discussing sex and, some say, promiscuity.

"Promiscuity is a loaded word," says Shell. "I would say that AIDS is a result of unsafe sexual practices, and unguarded sexual behavior is the most important factor. Ignorance about reproductive health is the biggest factor [and it] is related to poverty and illiteracy. Ten percent of the Africans in my province have other sexually transmitted diseases ...."

'Most men are not tested'

Many men leave their rural homes to work in mines and on construction projects. This mobile work force and rapid urbanization has contributed to cities in which 40 to 50 percent of the population has AIDS.

In a document prepared for the U.N. Development Program, researcher Desmond Cohen writes that a 40 to 50 percent infection rate was once thought "wholly improbable."

Wars have also contributed to the problem.

Like migrant workers, truck drivers and young men, soldiers often visit "commercial sex workers," or prostitutes, 90 percent of whom are believed to have AIDS. Nigerian soldiers with the ECOMOG forces in Sierra Leone and Finnish soldiers serving as peacekeepers in Namibia took AIDS with them when they returned home.

Girls and women are often forced to have sex with men in male-dominated African cultures. In fact, says journalist Thomas, in some areas infected men "believe they can be cured by having sex with a virgin, and 12-year-old girls become infected."

The AIDS rate among women is much higher

than among men, but as Shell points out "most men are not being tested."

Meanwhile, they unknowingly may be passing on the infection to African women. Compounding the problem, according to a U.N. study, is that 30 percent of young African women believe if a man looks healthy, he could not have AIDS.

Strangling businesses

Given the variables and incomplete reporting on the epidemic, it is difficult to assess its economic impact with any precision. But there have been estimates that the per capita income in most sub-Saharan countries has declined by 20 percent.

The American Foundation for AIDS Research noted in a research paper late in 1999 that 80 percent of those dying are workers between the ages of 20 and 50 -- workers in their prime.

"AIDS is slowly strangling many businesses and economies," the report said, "and in a global market everyone eventually suffers."

Many companies hire and train two and even three people to do the job of one person because AIDS is certain to fell some of them.

The epidemic is also responsible for the quadrupling of life insurance premiums in Zimbabwe, escalating health costs to Botswana companies by 500 percent and driving the health costs of a large Zambian company so high that they exceeded profits.

In Zimbabwe and Botswana, where roughly one of every four people have AIDS, the disease has cut sharply into population growth with negative consequences.

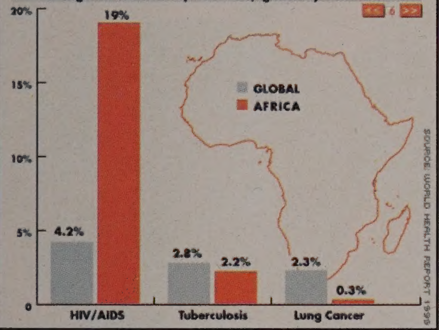
"The zero growth is coming because people are dying in their young adult years, not after leading full lives and then dying," says Karen Stanecki, chief of health studies for the U.S. Census Bureau.

"People are dying in the years when they're supposed to be most productive, and they won't be there to raise the next generation. Which means you'll have all these orphans and no one to raise them."

The danger of global consequences

One of the most alarming speculations is that by 4the year 2010 there will be 40 million AIDS orphans in Africa, most of whom will have grown up with little or no social structure.

Percentage of deaths by disease, globally and in Africa



SOURCE: WORLD HEALTH REPORT 1998

As much as humanitarianism, it is this vision of lawlessness and chaos and their potential to destabilize the global economy that has fueled worldwide concern.

"If we don't work with the Africans themselves to address these problems," U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Richard Holbrooke said in January 2000, "we will have to deal with them later when they will get more dangerous and more expensive."

Researchers are working on an AIDS vaccine, but such a medicine is still years away. In the meantime aggressive prevention programs can, and do, help.

A clever safe-sex campaign using catchy packaging and a suggestive slogan ("So Strong, So Smooth") turned condoms into a must-have item in Uganda. It also cut the AIDS rate from 15 percent to 9.7 percent. A vigorous program in Senegal has kept its infection rate at 2 percent

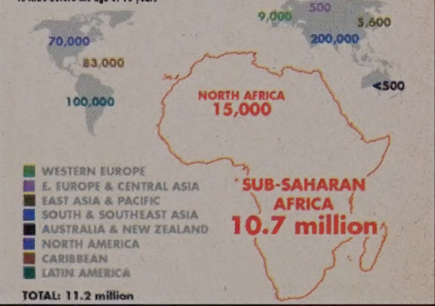
But African nations spend only $165 million a year to combat AIDS, and it all comes from the industrialized nations. James Wolfensohn, president of the World Bank, told the U.N. Security Council in January 2000 that an effective and comprehensive prevention program for sub-Saharan Africa would cost $2.3 billion a year.

To be effective prevention must be paired with investment that will create jobs, invigorate the educational system and pull the poor out of the "here and now" mentality that makes them susceptible to AIDS.

"Many of us used to think of AIDS as a health issue," Wolfensohn told the Security Council. "We were wrong. AIDS can no longer be confined to the health or social sector portfolios. AIDS is turning back the clock on development." Says Vogl: "These countries have to make their economies grow. People who are trapped in poverty aren't going to do much about health care. If everything else in the country is falling to

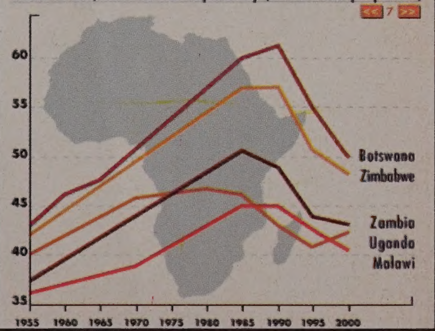
Estimated number of AIDS orphans (14 or younger) through 1999

* HIV-negative children who have lost their mother or both parents to AIDS before the age of 15 years



TOTAL: 11.2 million

Effect of HIV/AIDS on life expectancy (1995-2000 projection)



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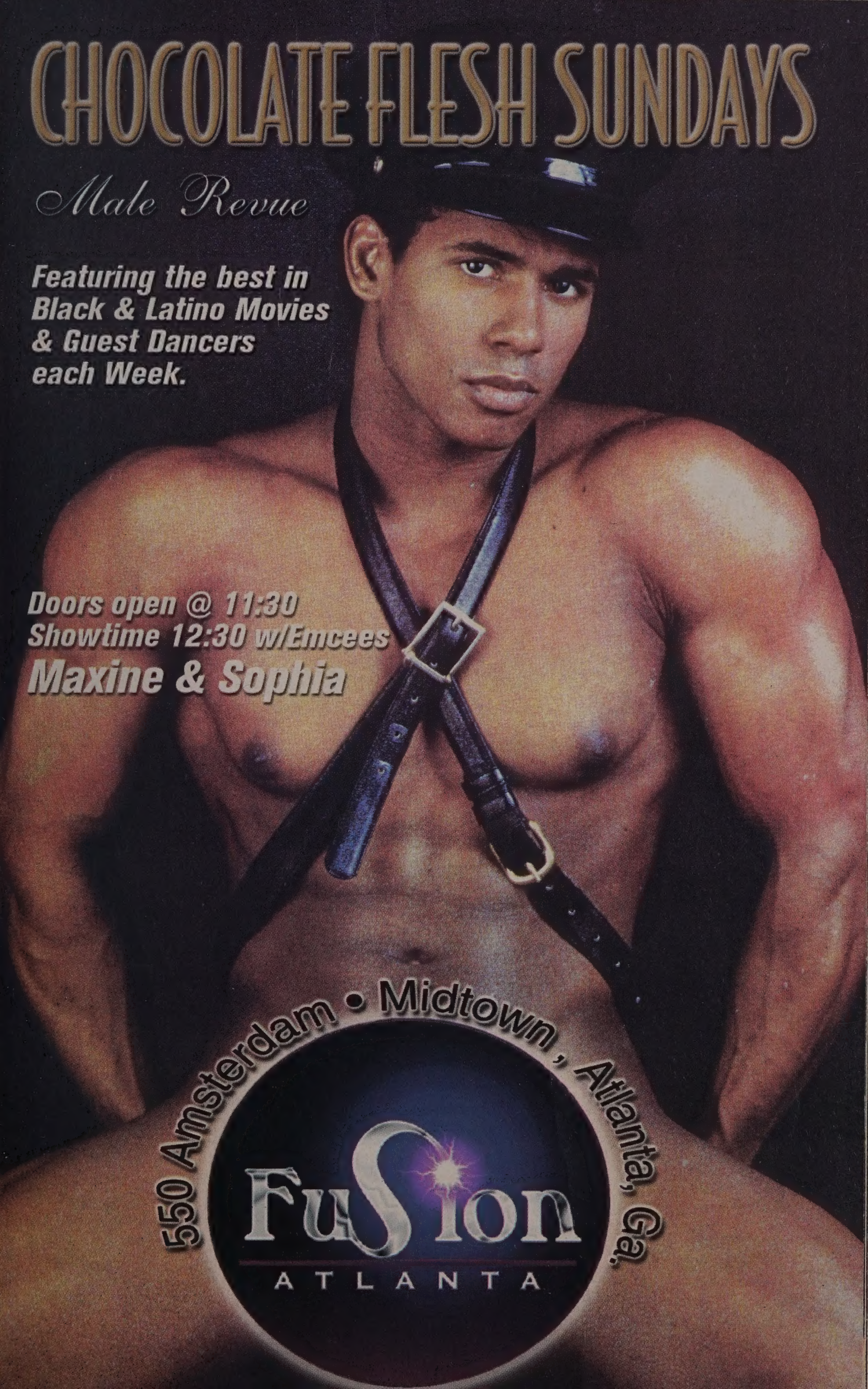

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PRIDE

Clikque MAGAZINE

Memphis Black Pride

Mid America enjoyed its 5th annual BGP in the historic city of Memphis, TN. Home of Beale Street, the Lorraine Motel/National Civil Rights Museum, and all the BBQ and Blues you can take along the Mississippi River. The owners and management of Club N-Cognito again presented the rip roaring, hee-haw, rodeo adventure west of the Mississippi.

With some of the greatest in female impersonation, male dancers, and "glowing" female dancers the surprises and adventures were non-stop all weekend. Clikque teamed up with N-Cognito and presented the annual pool party, a local favorite. We were joined by the men and flesh of Fellas Magazine, adding a bit of hot sauce for your tastes. The legendary Tommie Ross, a national treasure and icon joined in the festivities as well.

If you missed Memphis Black Pride this year, start making plans now for 2001. You have not experienced fun until you've partied with Mid-America's bold and the beautiful. For more information or to make reservations contact or visit Club N-Cognito in Memphis.

Clikque
Budweiser

"Got Hep?"

PHOTO TIM WILKERSON

If you get hepatitis, milk is the strongest drink you'll have for 6 months.
And that's not all. You may turn yellow, get really sick and miss a lot of work.
Hep B can cause cancer, liver disease and even death.
But the good news is you can prevent hep A and B by getting vaccinated.

So... if you like tossing salad (rimming), the hep A virus may be in your next dish.
And, if on occasion, it's "bottoms up" for you, the hep B virus (not to mention HIV)
may find you as tasty as your trick. Be smart. Get the shots.

For the 411 on hepatitis, and where to get vaccinated,
call the Georgia HIV/STD Infoline at (404) 870-7775 or (800) 551-2728.

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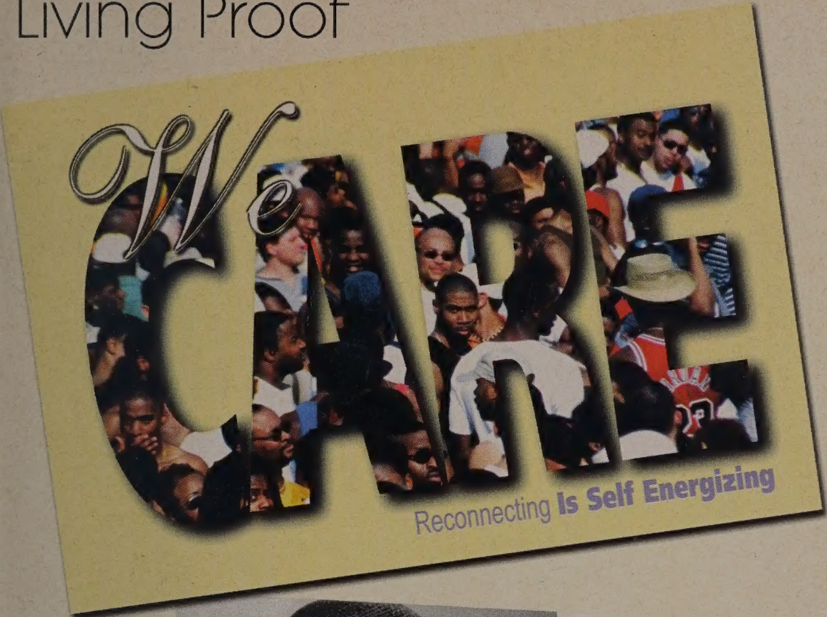

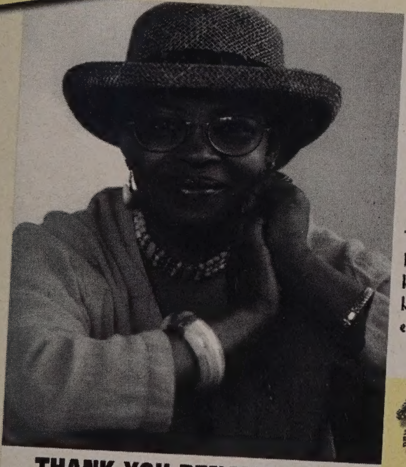

"As an African American mother, living with HIV, for five years I volunteered my time educating people about the disease. I'll never forget the warmth, support and personal attention I was given from the first day that I walked through the doors of Renaissance III, Inc. They helped me get my life together.

Today, I am the Outreach Coordinator for Renaissance III. My coming to Renaissance III has changed my life and the services offered have proven to be invaluable to me as I empower others and myself living with the virus."

.... Serita Agnew

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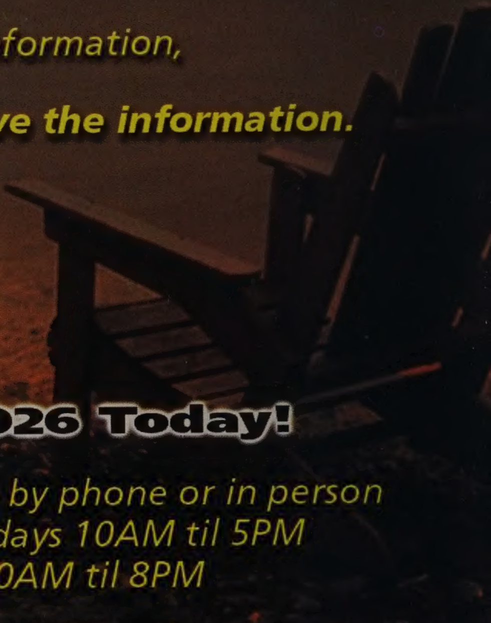

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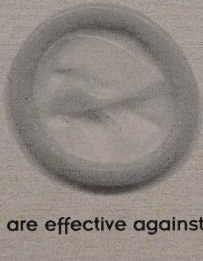

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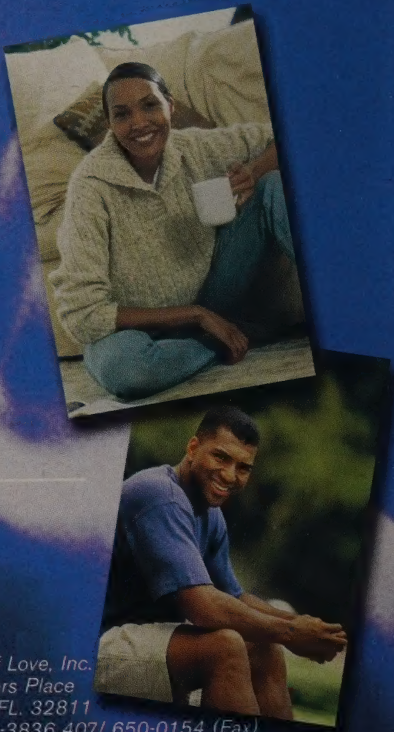
Miracle of Love

Orlando, Fl.

"Me"

*I am the only **"Me"** I've got. I am unique. There are two major parts of me. There's the inside Me and the outside **"Me"**. The out side me is what you see; the way I act, the image I portray, the way I look and the things I do. The outside **"Me"** is every important. It is my messenger to the world and much of my outside **"Me"** is what communicated with you. I value what I have done, the way I look and what I share with you. The inside **"Me"** knows all my hope and dreams. Sometime I let you know a little about the inside **"Me"** and sometimes it's a very private part of myself. Even though there is enormous number of people in this world, no one is exactly like "Me". I take full responsibility for **"Me"** and the more I find out that I am an O.K. person. I've done some good things in my life because I am a good person. I've accomplished something in my life because I am competent person. I know some special people because I am worth knowing. I celebrate the many things I have done for myself. I've also made some mistakes I can learn from. I have known people who did not appreciate **"Me"**, I do not need to keep those people in my life. I've wasted some precious time. As long as I can see, hear, feel, think, change, grow and behave, I have great possibility. I'm going to take those risks and those possibilities, and I'm going to grow and love and be and **CELEBRATE; I'M WORTH IT.***



Miracle of Love, As the oldest minority AIDS service organization in Orange County, Miracle of Love, Inc. has built a tradition spanning over 8 years of providing a viable source of information, support, community advocacy, and referral services. Founded in 1993, MOLs mission is to provide services, prevention education, information, referrals, advocacy, and medical care to persons of color in the Orlando - Area 7 EMA.

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Our Story...

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Today Over 75% of the work of AMASSI is in the housing arena, providing services to homeless women, children and famalies in Alameda County. • www.amassi.org

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Door655

Well, well, well....Here is another hot issue of Door 655. I hope you all were safe and didn't fall in love last month because those long distance things don't work (sometimes they do!). Hope your Memorial Day Weekend was as good as mine and your Fourth of July was full of EXPLOSIONS, like mine! Anyway, last month you learned a little more about Silas. And the KISS was only that, a kiss. William still doesn't know what he wants, or does he? Craig returns to his apartment with Silas, Wes, and William on his mind. He dreams of all three. Awakened in a cold sweat, he decides to shower. Just as he is about to reach his point, he slips and falls. He is unconscious, bleeding, and alone.

****

William was snapped out of his trance when he heard a loud thud above his head.

"What in the fuck was that?" he asked himself as he looked up towards his ceiling, Craig's apartment. He stood up to find his shoes. He stopped himself. "What am I doing? He probably just dropped something. What I look like goin' up there just because I heard a noise?" So he went into his living room and sat on his couch. He flipped on his television. Without paying any attention to what was on, he mechanically flipped through the channels. He only thought of Craig. He looked up again as he pressed mute on his remote control. Nothing. He slightly heard what he gathered was running water.

"He aite. He's taking a shower." William turned the volume back on as he now felt relieved that everything was okay. He sat back and replayed the kiss in his mind.

"Damn, it was just like kissing a girl and shit. But I ain't gay. I just can't be." He shook his head and tried to watch TV

*****

Red's guest looked at him and grinned. "You wanna do it raw, yo? I ain't did that shit in a minute, yo. You gotta be careful and shit deez days," he said as looked Silas in the eye.

"Look at me nigga. Do it look like I got some shit?" Silas said with his most honest face. The guy looked at him and thought about it for a minute.

"Come on man, let's just jack off and shit. I'm fucked up," he said as he grabbed Silas and pulled him close. Silas just shook it off and closed his eyes. He soon felt the guys warm hand on his dick. He began to slowly stroke it up and down. Silas' beautifully straight red dick was rock hard. He arched his back and moaned quietly as his visitor began to quicken his strokes. In minutes, Silas was bucking his hips and holding on tightly to the guy's back.

"Yeah, nigga. Jack that shit! Jack that shit!" Silas said as he was about to explode. His guest was jacking his dick as he stroked Silas' and watched the intensity in his eyes. Soon, he came on his hand, stomach, and on Silas. Silas felt the hot streams land on his stomach and this drove him to his point.

"Yeah, boy shoot that shit! Damn, yo....Damn yo....I'm cummin'...Yeah nigga, yeah., yeaahhhhhh...." With those moans and groans, Silas was shooting his juices everywhere. He pulled the guy's hand away, and started jerking with his own. Streams of white cream went everywhere. One stream brushed across his visitor's cheek.

"Damn, nigga, shoot that shit!" his guest said as he massaged and rubbed Silas' thighs and balls. In minutes, both men were asleep. They didn't get up to clean up or take a shower. They laid there in there sex solution.

******

The water continued to run all over Craig's limp body. The blood continued to flow. Torn away from the world for this moment, nothing mattered. He lay there, silent, alone, beautiful, homosexual, strong, afraid, confident, powerful, helpless, yet, still a man. A black, gay man with the weight of the world on his shoulders. But now, nothing mattered. William was now blackness. Wes was now blackness. Silas was now blackness. AIDS didn't matter. Sex didn't matter. Love didn't matter. Nothing. The water mixed with his blood. His world was now on pause.

****

William dozed off. The television watched him as he began to fall deeper into sleep. He left the conscious world and entered the subconscious. He now stood in a desolate desert. He looked all around him and saw nothing but dry land. The sun's rays beat down on his back as he soon realized that he was totally naked. This bothered him at first, but realizing that there was no other human being for as far as he could see, he forgot about his nudeness. Suddenly, in the distance, a form was in motion headed in his direction. He shielded his eyes from the sun as he tried to make out the person. The form began to gain speed as it appeared to be running towards him. He squinted to try and figure out just who this was running towards him. The person got closer and closer. Just as William thought he knew who the person was, the ground began to tremble. Suddenly, the earth opened up and split. The form that William figured to be Craig, could not stop himself. Just where the ground opened up, his left foot went over the edge first. William's heart raced as he saw his friend get swallowed up by the earth. William could not yell or even move. All that he heard was Craig's pitiful cry: "William!!!!!!!! Help meeeeeee!!!!!"

William immediately jerked up. "Oh shit! What a fuckin' dream," he said to himself. Then he realized it was quiet. His television was on mute. He must have rolled over on the remote. Then his mind started to turn. He began to think. Craig's cry of help seemed too real. He sat there in silence, listening for him to yell again. Silence. This unnerved William. He listened. "Damn, he still can't be taking a shower," he said as he heard the water running. He looked up at his ceiling and noticed a drop of water forming in a particular spot. "Oh fuck!" he said as he jumped up to put on some shoes. In minutes, he was up in front of Craig's door, knocking like a maniac. "Craig! Craig! Open the door, man! Open up! It's me, William..........Craig!.......Craig!" Then suddenly, a terrible vision entered his head. The site of a teary-eyed Craig laying in a bath tub of bloody water with his wrists slit. Immediately, he rushed the door. The hinges snapped off! "Craig! Craig!...Where you at, man!" he shouted as he ran straight for the bathroom.

****

Silas was awakened by the sound of his phone ringing. He rolled over to look at the caller I.D. It was Wes. He rolled back over and faced his sleeping guest. Their sex juices had dried into a crusty substance that stuck to his chest and stomach. Silas got up and jumped in the shower. Meanwhile, his guest slowly rolled over. He soon heard the shower water running. He jumped up from the bed and slipped into his boxers. He walked around the bed and searched for Silas' pants. Finding the pair of pants that Silas had on earlier in a pile on the other side of the bed, he picked them up and searched the pockets. He felt the bulge in the back pocket and removed Silas's wallet. Removing three hundred dollar bills, two fifties, and a couple of twenties, he wiped Silas out. He fumbled around for another minute or two. Silas had no credit cards which made his little thief a little disappointed. In seconds, the guy was dressed and out the door. Silas stopped the water, dried himself off as he looked in the mirror. He closed his eyes, took a deep breath and opened them again to face himself. Nothing changed. He wrapped the towel around himself and walked back into his bedroom. His bed was empty.

"Corey! Where you at, yo?" he called out. No one responded. He was nowhere to be seen. Silas' heart began to race. He immediately looked around to see if anything had changed. Nothing. Then, his pants in the corner caught his eye. "Oh shit," he thought as he ran to get his wallet. Empty! His heart dropped. His rent money was gone.

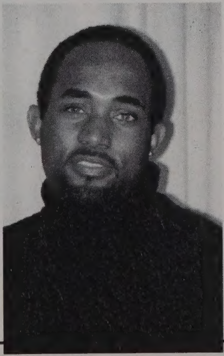
****

William turned the corner and saw the sight he dreaded the most. There in the bathtub was Craig. He lay there silently as the water ran over his entire body. The water was now completely red. William's heart began to race, his throat began to tighten, and tears began to form in the corners of his eyes. "Craig!!!! No!" he yelled as he kneeled down by the bath tub. The water began to run over his body as he grabbed Craig's wrists to see how bad he had cut himself. But there were not cuts. He gently tried to lift Craig and as he touched the back of his head, he found the source of the blood. He reached for a towel and pressed it against the source of the blood.

"Come on Craig....come on man," he said as tears ran down his beautiful masculine face. "Don't leave me, now....Come on Craig, wake up man. You started a lot of shit in my life...and now you trying to leave....You can't...you can't do this to me, Craig. You just can't. Come on, Craig. Wake up....Don't do this to me... I .....I.....I....I love you, Craig. Damn it, I love you!" he said as the tears flowed and mixed with the running water from the shower. "Just don't fucking leave me to deal with this shit on my own, Craig. I fuckin' love you. Is that what you wanna hear? Is that it?"

Craig's eyes slowly opened. "Yes...yeah, William, that's it. That's what I wanna hear."

STAY TUNED TO NEXT MONTH



written by senior staff writer
Queshan Hayes
atlanta, ga.

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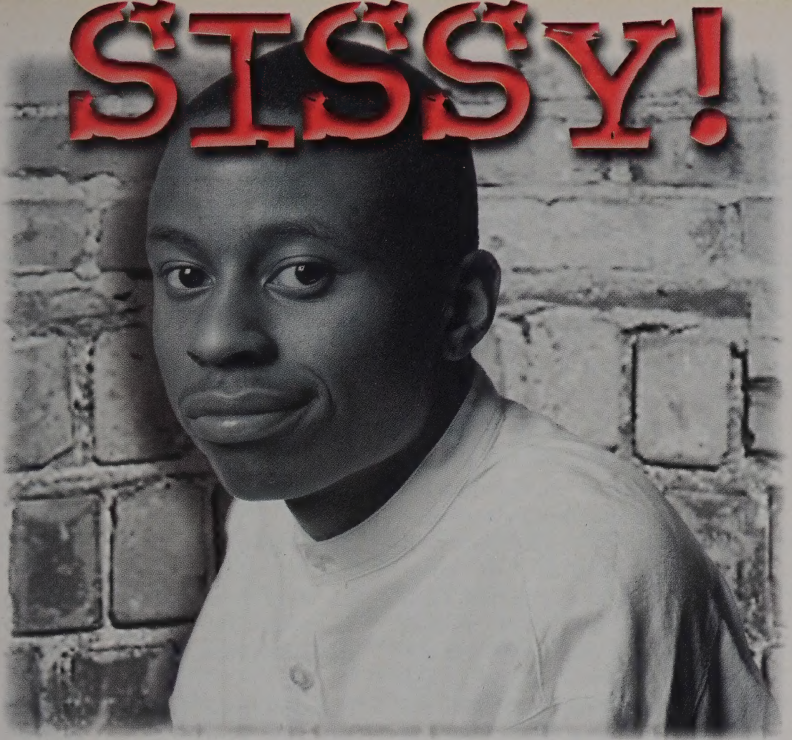

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The Hood

By Jennifer Glover

Today someone insulted me, hurt me and exiled me once again. "Oh, you live in the HOOD," her snarling face radiated fear and disgust. She looked horrified as if she feared for her survival. She looked as if she would rather die than visit the new apartment I call home. I wondered what she feared. I stood shocked and silent while she glared into me. Was it me, my skin, others like me or was it the stigma of the hood? I asked her did she have any idea what lay beyond the hood, what's waiting in good ole suburbia for a woman like myself. A Back Woman...

I wondered did her opinion of the Jennifer she once knew suddenly changed. I wondered was I now tainted, scarred in some way, or did she see my addess as a new found window to my soul?

Her mouth gapped, she looked at me as if secretly asking what was wrong with me! Then she said it... There are so many much nicer areas! I was so offended, I had to share some knowledge with this white middle class woman.

Pissed off I asked her did she know the history of the "hood" as she called it. Angrily I asked did she know anything about areas like Watts, Lamert Park or Baldwin Hills and why many African Americans settled in those areas. She was perplexed as she scanned my eyes for the meaning behind my questions.

I told her I was comfortable with and among my people because I am not a target for racism, discrimination, and segregation. These factors are notorious in today's liberal society. She looked at me as if I were insane!

She was the epitome of stupidity, ignorance and was like most white people who declared racism is in the past. She stated that it was all in my mind, times have changed, and that I, like other Blacks was holding on to archaic occurrences!!!

Informed her that outside the hood is where most dangers lie. Nothing has changed since the Great Migration and World War I. During both of these periods, many African Americans migrated West. There were certain states that didn't allow our people, for example, during World War II industrial capitalists provided many, many jobs, but no housing. This was not an accident.

Because of this many African Americans were forced into slum like cities that were already overflowing with exiled Blacks. African Americans were also charged higher rents if they found a neighborhood populated by immigrants. There was also such a thing as Restrictive Covenants. These were voluntary agreements made by a property owner which prevented African Americans from buying property! Another type of covenant was a real estate clause in the deed, this clause prevented selling or subleasing to African Americans. This is a form of residential segregation.

I told her we were exiled, forced out, and our lives threatened. True, this day we have more power as a people, but what has really changed concerning where they allow US to reside? The fact remains, my kin were forced into a new slavery when they migrated from the South. They were forced to livei;n specific regions because the racist hierarchy decided who was fit to live in a certain area! White people didn't want US in their neighborhoods, especially next door!

I told her that on June 27, 1999, I paid my deposit, signed my rental agreement, and received my keys to a"nice place in the suburbs of Los Angeles. lt was supposed to be home for the next twelve months. It would have been my paradise, my refuge and my oasis. It would have been the place where I cooked and served Italian Food, sipped champagne, and wrote poetry. It would have been the place I fed, bathed, and played with my dogs. It was supposed to be a place for me to light candles, pray, and make love... My cozy 1. bedroom~ duplex, nestled in Torrence would have been home.

On Wednesday June 30, life changed for me as Latino gang members spray painted the front of my rental with "NIGGER. 187, MOVE OUT NIGGER, FUCK ALL NIGGERS, 187! Poison all over my hopes and dreams, all over my home. The stinging poison of hatred seeped into me reaffirming that my ancestors are African. Reiterating my ancestors are American Indian. The oppressed...

She of course did not believe me, and she declared Torrence a great city! I then told her I was contacted by the local newspaper. Their words are and I quote, "similar incidents have targeted African Americans trying to move into homes in that area! The community is in rife with racial problems between black and latino gangs! Recently there have been at least a couple of killings that were race related!" I also told her because of this incident, the paper keeps me abreast of the situations in that area. There have been seven new reports concerning African American people being victimized for being Black! According to statistics, every week or so someone African American is hospitalized, beaten, or killed.

Imagine how shocked I was at the fact that it's been going on for years. Why didn't I know to stay out? Of course l asked the paper, if it's been going on for years, the media knows, law enforcement agencies know, and obviously my rental company knew why don't they put an end to it? I asked why didn't the city do something to protect it's Black citizens which are being victimized on a continuous basis? Then he blew my mind... He said, Ms. Glover, isn't it evident African Americans are not wanted here! He said of course something can be done, but they way the good ole folk see it, the Latino gangs are not bothering them. The message is strong and it's out there. African Americans will stay away because of fears of racism, violence and death!

I told her, at that moment the word racism gouged in my brain. l told her it was systematic racism! If they welcomed all people, they would fight for the Black citizens. When we are threatened, attacked, murdered, it's okay. The goal is to keep us away from their "much nicer" cities just as they did sixty years ago. I asked her, what has actually changed?

I informed her, there are dangers everywhere. Where I live is no exception! In the "hood," as she called it, the possibility of harm, loss, or injury does exist. However, in the hood, I will not be forced away because of my pigment, hair texture, or my heritage. In the hood I am not invisible and residential segregation does not exist. I will not be banished because I am Black and my eyes scream African, Freedom, and Justice! In the hood I will not be blackballed because I am Black I will not be blacklisted for being Black.

I advised her that her initial abhorrence was the fear of being the oppressor among the oppressed.

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Trans-Central Station

By Teryl-Lynn Foxx — Miss Clikque America 2000

When I was a contestant for the Miss Clikque America Pageant, each contestant had to present herself and state a platform (a cause of interest) in which a monthly magazine article. My platform is the elevation and education of the transgendered community.

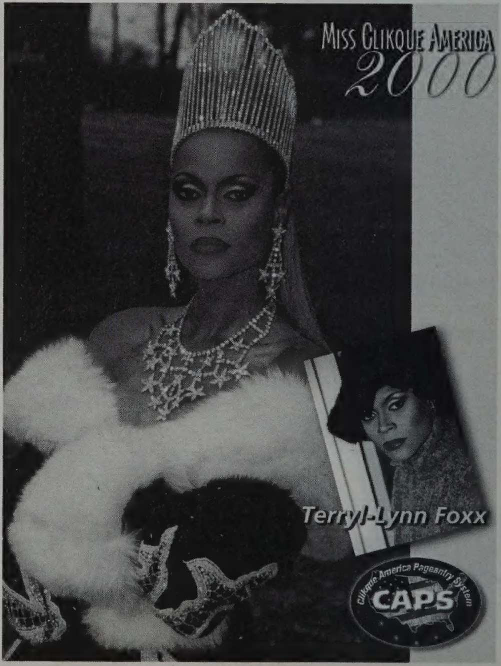
I've had years of experience in teaching, but I didn't have a clue about to how to effectively educate readers about transsexuals and transgendered. My articles are of personal events and situations which I share with you.

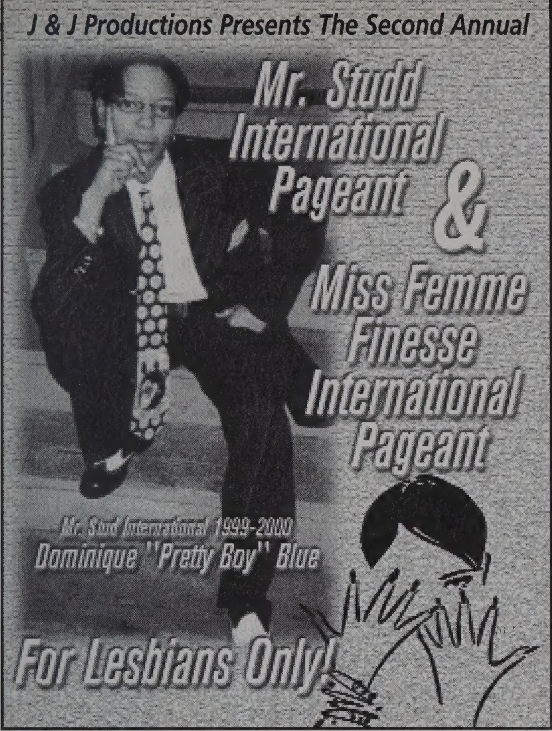
I thought I did a fair job of educating and introducing transsexuals to my regular and extended families. I thought the education was over, but I forgot about the new additions to the clan. Ranging in the ages of 8-11 years, my nephew and great nieces have questions about me. They are now of age when their own sexuality comes into fruition. Their questions stem from past pictures and the constant referral of me as "he" by my father. He has the most difficult time adjusting and adapting to my transition.

This seven minute interview with my nephew, (because my great neices didn't have questions) was a fingernail bitin', palm sweatin', foot pattin' as any television, radio, newspaper or magazine interview I' ve ever given. It was more frightening than question and answer for the Miss Black Universe Pageant. The interview was conducted over the phone because of scheduling.

Teryl: "Hi Kim! Whatcha doing?"
Kim: "Playing on my PlayStation."
Teryl: "Do you wanna talk later?"
Kim: "No, we can talk now."
Teryl: "I understand you have a question for me."
Kim: "Um, yeah! Are you a lady or a man?"
Teryl: (I had to pause for a second, because I didn't expect that question to be first.) "What do I look like to you?"
Kim: "A lady."
Teryl: "Well that's what I am!"
Kim: "But why does GranGran (my father) call you he, and who is that in all the pictures?"
Teryl: "Do you know what a sissy is?"
Kim: "Yeah!"
Teryl: "Another name for a sissy is gay. A gay person is a person who likes people of the same sex- a boy likes another boy and a girl likes another girl. There are people who were born a boy but was unhappy, so they grow up and they find new discoveries about themselves and who they really are and how they really feel."
Kim: " So you once was a boy-but was not happy and you became a girl?"
Teryl: " Yeah! Something like that. When you get a little older I'll be able to explain it better."
Kim: "Oh, I think I understand... I gotta go."
Teryl: "Is that it?"
Kim: "Yeah. I love yah!"
Teryl: "I love you too."

As I hang-up the phone wiping my brow I think, oh my God did I handle that situation correctly? Within a few seconds, God answered my call. " There was no right or wrong answer the questions. It's all about experiencing."
Endless Love,
Teryl-Lynn





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continued from page 49

Sidra Smith asked " I said, 'yes of course, are you kidding me.'" She continues "It was a dream part...I have the opportunity to act stank...I was with the project from the ground floor." Means also reveals that she "was at home with the cast and crew. At home with my sisters. We got it done and put it down." In a moment of quiet confidence Means offers "I would rather be professionally involved with Black women than any other species on the planet. More than anyone else. There's nobody like a black women." Admittedly being able to spend time talking to these women Means' point is very clear, these are truly determined and committed women and anyone working with them should be honored to be in such company.

Michelle Lamar Richards offers a bit of insight into the movie (*A Luv Tale*), the movie industry, and humanity, at the time of filming there were "196 productions in the works and only 3 had women as directors of photography." "It's time to do more..." she adds. *A Luv Tale* had women in front and behind the camera. This film is about "women's sensibilities. Women are more into foreplay...the fun is getting there, the climax is just that, one moment, the climax is over rated. With women it's more cyclical not vertical and up and down." Richards offers this additional insight, "The most engaging thing humans do, homo or hetero, is conversation. So the intriguing thing is seeing people get together rather that the act (of sex). So people can go home and have the kind of relationship they want to have." "If I do any work it has to have a commentary and consciousness... to find the essence that's innate that everyone can relate to," Michelle Lamar Richards.

Clearly, *A Luv Tale*, fits this bill. It is engaging, sincere, and timely. Richards finishes with this comment "it's heart felt,...it's about following the heart. It's about forgetting the materialism and walking in the heart." And that is the truest statement about *A Luv Tale* that could be mentioned. *A Luv Tale* is available on line at **www.aluvtale.com**. Or call the national hotline @ 888-374-5504. Please pick up a copy. It is the most captivating film short you may ever see. By purchasing a copy you will be part of the metamorphosis of this short film into a full length feature film. Any best kept secret in Hollywood is "*A Luv Tale*" and this is not a secret anymore. Coming soon you can meet and view the film at "*A Luv Tale ...Live!!*," in association with Girls In The Night and Sidra Smith, for more details visit www.girlsinthenight.com or www.aluvtale.com.

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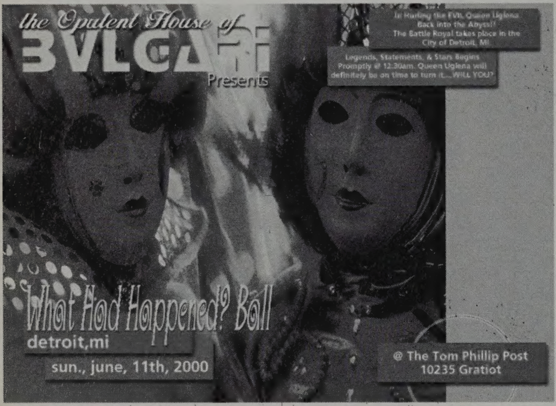
LIVE FROM DETROIT

The House Of Bvlgari Ball

As reported by: M. Liz Marshall

Dubbed the □What Had Happened Ball,□ the kidz took to the runway and □lived.□ The house of Bvlgari is fierce and put forth a great effort in order to try to clean up the scene here in Detroit. For those of you that didn□t know, the last ball ended prematurely due to a faithful few that just can□t seem to behave while out in public. It□s not just here, there□s always a small group any time we try to come together for some good, clean fun. Mind you, it□s not the contestants but spectators that get it started and keep it going. Enough about the bullshit, let me tell you about the House of Bvlgari.

The House of Bvlgari is very diverse. Most of its members either work or attend school, some choose to do both. The House is comprised of a myriad of backgrounds, as well as races and sexual preferences. Yes, that means everyone is not Black nor is everyone gay, which is good. It□s nice to know that there is a place that is so much like family that differences can be accepted rather than shunned. The house mother is David; the house father is Albert. There are other offices held within the Detroit house, such as: treasurer, secretary, inquisitor, and president. Those holding such positions within Bvlgari are: Eric, Terrence (Ti Ti), Leah, another Eric, Alonzoa and John. Perhaps, some of them will come to Atlanta in September with me. They are a pleasurable group of young people that are well on their way to success. Now, let□s move on to the actual ball festivities.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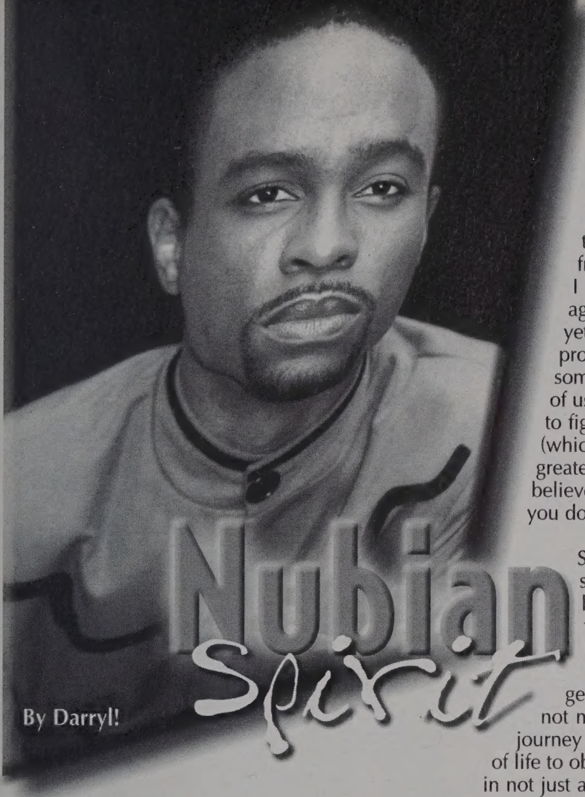
@ The Tom Phillip Post
10235 Gratiot

The ball kicked off around 12:35 a.m. on June 11, 2000. Tables were filling up quickly while people poured in to the Tom Phillips Post on Gratiot for this eventful occasion. Prior to the actual categories beginning, the house mothers and fathers were introduced and walked the runway. The first house to walk was the House of Bvlgari, clad in military camouflaged gear they lined up in formation and proudly saluted the mother and father□s arrival. Next, Diva read the rules of the ball again regarding acceptable conduct and the desire of Bvlgari to dethrone the evil Queen Uglena. Yet, even with arduous effort that b□□ reigns! Curses, foiled again.

Anyhoo, the commentators were: Diva, Christian Bizarre and Queen Mother Pookie Illusion. They kept it real y□all! After Christian Bizarre reminded the children that this event would not pay their bills and that there was no need for shade, the games began! The categories were as follows: Labels, Bang/Cunt, Women□s face, Butch-Queen up in pumps,Best-dressed spectator, New way vs. Old way vogueing, Sex siren, Stretching, kicking, bending category, Butch realness, and Runway. Winners of the categories were: the House of Madori (I don□t have a name), Trico-House of Barbie, Sally-House of Dior, Orlando-Cash Money Boys, Diva (we all know she is the bomb), Delanyo Channel-House of Channel-Atlanta, Mother Carell Ultra Omni-House of Ultra Omni-Chicago, Anthony Dutch-House of Duchess, Reggie of the House of Dior, Brandy (no house), Ori-D.C. (no house) and Milan, the mother of the House of Ovahness□ your face is sickening! For those of you that know that song regarding ovahness, I thought that was an innovative title for a house.

Many houses were represented, I□ll name them and conclude. In attendance were: the House of Rodeo-Detroit, House of Ultra Omni-Chicago, House of Channel, straight outta Atlanta, House of Escada-Detroit, House of Midori-Detroit, House of Illusions-Detroit, House of Odyssey-Detroit, House of Devaz-Detroit, House of Dior-Detroit, House of Supreme-Detroit, House of Con-Detroit, House of Meoshi from Detroit, House of Duchess-Detroit, House of Bizarre-NYC, the House of Connections-Detroit, the Cash Money Boys-Detroit and the House of Infinity from Detroit.

The function concluded at around 5:00 am, Bvlgari put on a great affair but after the actions of a misguided few, things came to a screeching halt. So, guess what? I am done with the ball scene, I□ll let you know when they are taking place but I am too old to stay up so late and almost get beat up trying to help calm others down. Thanks to the House of Bvlgari for putting forth a tremendous effort and being a house of unity. I enjoyed myself and I hope that in the future that the troublemakers will stay at home because that□s where they belong. Within our community, we owe it to ourselves to show a little more cohesion and not always fall apart over silly, trivial matters. Perhaps, some of us can take a lesson from those of us that rise above the bullshit□.like the Bvlgari kidz. Big ups to y□all! Peace and blessings.



Nubian Spirit

By Darryl!

In a recent conversation with Michelle Lamar Richards (*A Luv Tale* and *The Body Guard*) we talked about how our eyes often get in the way of our true perspective. What we see is not always what really is. What we see often skews our realities and interferes with our forward progression. This inspired me and prompted more consideration of how perspective can effect us. In a past NubianSpirit we talked about changing our perspective, particularly to create the reality we want for ourselves.

There are at least two important steps that I surmise will aid us in our continued effort to adjust our perspective and achieve our goals. First is identifying what we believe and the second is getting focused. What we believe has profound effects on what we do and how we live our lives. For instance, take the most obvious area of belief, religion. Our values and beliefs will seriously impact how we approach the world and react in it. I have the basic belief that all people are good and given the opportunity will make the choice to do the greater good for themselves and others. Basically. This becomes complicated if people feel threatened or that they are not truly free to make choices that will lead to a greater good.

However, doing the greater good is simply a choice and I think that people ultimately seek to be at their optimal best, which is good. Some of this stems from my spiritual perspective and others from experiences. I rarely see people as evil or bad, but as seeking ways to get out of distress and create the good they desire for themselves and/or others. This basic belief fuels my involvement with everyone and everything I do. When confronted with negativity I hope that I will respond with good intentions and an effort to ease the tension that is preventing the greater good from emerging. I am by no means perfect, I have had my share of arguments, disagreements, and fights in my lifetime. And yet as I look at these troubling times the problem was not that we disagreed but at some deep level of understanding one or all of us felt threatened and therefore compelled to fight to maintain our freedom and integrity (which always means a fight to protect our greater goodness, or good self). What you believe will ultimately impact how and what you do, say, and think. What do you believe?

Secondly, then, in achieving a new perspective we must get focused. Focus is having a singular or directed commitment to obtaining a goal or completing a task. It is seeing all the fluff and stuff that surrounds our everyday existence and not getting caught up in any of it. Focus does not mean that we do not enjoy life along the journey but that we do not allow the enjoyment of life to obscure the true path of the journey. Focus in not just a mechanical maneuver you do in setting goals but it is also a feeling. It allows you to feel the energy when a new idea floods your conscious or experience. It allows you to channel that energy into appropriate spaces and places for them to materialize as action in your life.

Focus affords you the insight to sense when those around you are not supportive of your vision and are in fact hindering your forward progression. Focus allows you to sense when you are moving too fast and missing important steps that will ultimately lead to the full achievement of your goals or greater good. Hence focus is interconnected to everything that you are or are becoming. Focus is more than setting goals or making a 5 or 10 year plan; it is the realization of who you are and your purpose in life. Focus is clarity; clarity of mind, spirit, and purpose. It allows you to do whatever you WILL to do. It allows you to have whatever you WILL to have. It allows you to be whatever you WILL to be.

Take some time to examine what you believe- Your beliefs will be your guide(s). Then get focused. Your focus will be the light for your journey. Together along with your passion there will be nothing that can stop you from being, doing, or having what you WILL for yourself. Belief+Focus+Passion= Total achievement.

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TransForum

What Makes the World Go Round

Hello everyone! Well another month bites the dust. I am so glad that things for me have finally calmed down and I can return to my seemingly normal life. Although life for me has never really been what most people consider normal. I mean that in a good way.

This time I want to discuss something that really made me feel that all is not lost in the world. The doing of good deeds. Yes, there are some people out in the world that still feel that it is their civic and humane duty to serve their fellow man (or woman). This is especially nice when the girls help each other out. We know how catty and shady we can be at times. Well this was not the case a couple weeks ago in my situation. I was getting my nails done at my favorite nail salon in Decatur GA. On any given Friday evening you can catch me getting my tips and toes done. On this particular evening the salon was extremely crowed. There is always a good crowd of "ladies in waiting." And believe me, they wait patiently. This just happens to be one of the most popular and better nail salons in the Atlanta area. I can stand by that statement because I have tried most of the better salons in the area and come to find that Nail Plus on Memorial Drive in Decatur is definitely one of the best. Anyway, i finally got to the chair. It was about 10:30pm. The salon is open until 1 am. And yes, people keep coming until closing. As I was finishing up waiting for my nails to dry, which takes forever, I noticed one of the "girls." She was trying to figure me out. It just so happens that she recognized me from reading my column. So, needless to say, we started talking about the wonderful world of nails. All of a sudden she asked me about transportation. She said "are you driving?" I thought she might need a ride somewhere. Of course I said no, I had planned to cab it home. It turned out that she was the one driving and offered me a ride home. Of course I accepted. Cab hopping can be expensive and public transportation is not in service past a certain hour in the late evening.

I was extremely delighted and surprised by her kind gesture. She asked for nothing in return. Why was I so surprised? Well, this is not something that happens very often, if at all. At least not to me. A perfect stranger doing a good deed, just because. In this society we spend so much time just trying to make a way for ourselves that we forget about the individuals who are less fortunate. Simple gestures of kindness can go a long way. Has it gotten to the point that we don't even see when someone is in need? I myself have tried to get in the habit of being more considerate towards others. It is really more rewarding than you know. Just recently I was coming from dinner at another one of my favorite hangouts, Micks in Downtown Atlanta. I was waiting for the train to go home and that's when I saw this frail man literally digging through the garbage for something to eat. My heart hurt. I walked up to him and offered him my doggie bag. He looked as though I had just saved his life. He then said," GOD bless you." I in turn said, "he already has." I felt so good afterwards. So are good deeds a thing of the past? I hope not. You know what they say, it is better to give, than to receive. I'm inclined to agree. When you get into the habit of doing good deeds it just becomes somewhat habitual. It is really what makes the world go round. What do you think?

Until next time, take care of yourselves, and each other.

written by staff writer
Dorian Kelly-Jahman
atlanta, ga.

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Tennessee Continental Pageant

Spend an Evening With Stars...

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Miss Continental
1999

Mokha Montrese
Miss Tennessee
Continental 1999

Racquel Scott
Miss Tennessee
Continental Plus
2000

Terrie Williams
Miss Continental Plus 1999
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Monica Munro
Miss Continental
1993

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Nashville, Tennessee

Top female impersonators from all over the country will arrive in Nashville to compete on our 16 foot runway for one of the most prestigious titles in Tennessee's entertainment circuit. You are cordially invited to attend the 16th Annual Miss Tennessee Continental Pageant in the Regal Maxwell House Grande Ballroom. There is free parking, a cash bar, seats for over 500 and you can even stay in the luxurious Maxwell House Hotel which is a Nashville tradition. Reserve your hotel room today and join us for a night in Nashville that will be long remembered.

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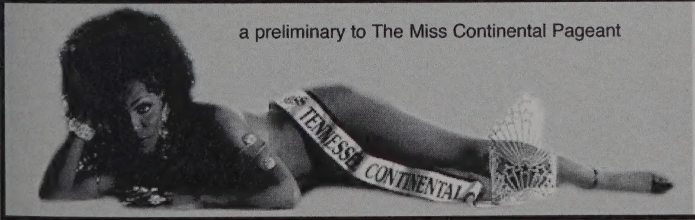
a preliminary to The Miss Continental Pageant



The Miss Continental Pageant Systems

MISS CLIKQUE AMERICA
Preliminaries

MISS CLIKQUE ATLANTA

DATE: SUNDAY AUGUST 20, 2000
Place: Traxx Nightclub
Registration fee: $100.00
Contact: Darryl! Moch @ (404) 817-3898

MISS CLIKQUE NEW ORLEANS

DATE:FRI. AUGUST 25TH & SAT. AUGUST 26TH, 2000
Place: Moma Rosa's.
Registration fee: $100.00
Contact: Montreal Coleman @ (504)943-5577
or Teryl-Lynn Foxx @ (504)947-5474

MISS CLIKQUE HOUSTON

DATE: SEPTEMBER 9TH, 2000
Place: Incognito The Club.
Registration fee $100.00
Contact: Randé Rochelle (713) 413- 9317

MISS CLIKQUE COLUMBIA

DATE: SEPTEMBER 22ND, 2000
Place: The Candy Shop.
Registration Fee $75.00
Contact: Chanel Le'Faris, (803)419-0172

MISS CLIKQUE DALLAS

DATE: OCTOBER 27TH, 2000
Place: The Candy Shop.
Registration Fee $100.00
Contact: Jason Menedez, 972) 506-9228

MISS CLIKQUE WASHINGTON DC

DATE: NOVEMBER 5TH, 2000
Place: TBA
Registration Fee $100.00
Contact: Jerry, (202) 518-6055

For Prize Packages And Contestant Information Please Call The Contact Person For The Preliminary That You Are Interested In. Or Call Our Headquarters @ 404-817-3898 You Can Also Visit Us On The Web At:

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MISS CLIKQUE AMERICA
Preliminaries

Other Cities:

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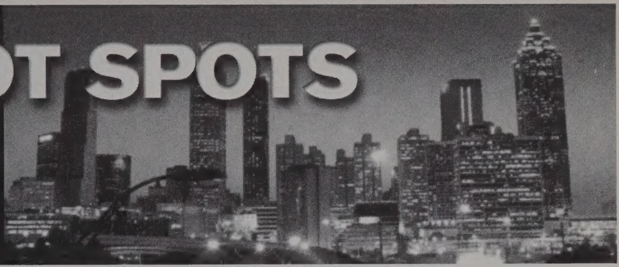

Be advised that clubs go out of business and clientele sometime changes. Therefore, it may be in your best interest to call before you visit any of the clubs listed here.

ATLANTA, GA

BACKSTREET ATLANTA
845 Peachtree Street (Rear Entrance) 404-873-1986. Always Open & Pouring. Membership Required * Membership Available. Hip-Hop Tuesdays w/DJ Biff

BULLDOGS
893 Peachtree Street, 404-872-3025. One of Atlanta's most happening nightspot. Open seven days a week.

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CLUB FUSION
550-C Amsterdam Ave., Midtown, 404-872-6411 Black and gay on Thursdays, Fridays, & Sundays.

CLUB JAGUAR
W. Peachtree & 15th St., 404-874-5673. Fridays- For women that love women; 10pm-4am

THE OTHERSIDE
1924 Piedmont Rd., 404-875-5238. Blackest on Wednesday.

THE PALACE
91 Broad Street, 404-522-3000. Doors open at 5PM seven days a week.

THE SEQUEL
708 Spring Street, 404-874-8125. Open Sundays-Wednesdays

THELMA'S PUMP ROOM
836 Juniper, 404-881-9230. Black on Friday Nights for the Best in Female Impersonation.

TRAXX NIGHTCLUB
306 Luckie St., N.W., 404-681-4422
Black and gay on Mondays, Thursdays & Saturdays.

BALTIMORE, MD

THE PARADOX
1310 Russel St. 410-837-9110. Saturdays Nights Hip-Hop Dance Floor, House & Classics.

BIRMINGHAM, AL

LATROYS
316 20th Street South, 205-322-8338.

CHARLOTTE, NC

300 STONEWALL
300 E. Stonewall (at S. Blvd.), 704-347-4200

CLUB MYXX
3110 S. Tryon Street, 704-525-5001. Blackest Fri. & Sat.

THE MASQUERADE
3018 The Plaza (at 35th), 704-344-1770

SCORPIO'S LOUNGE 2301 Freedom Dr., 704-373-9124

VINTAGE 401 Plaza Rd., 704-536-7566

CHICAGO, IL

GENTRY ON HALSTED
3320 N. Halsted St., 773-348-1053. Blackest on Saturday.

THE RAILS
1675 N. Elston Ave., 708-802-1705. Black Friday Nights

THE CONVENT 1529 W. Armitage

COLUMBIA, SC

CANDY SHOP 1903 Two Notch Road

DALLAS, TX

METRO 2204 Elm St., 214-742-2101.

DETROIT, MI

OFF BROADWAY EAST NIGHT CLUB
12215 Harper Ave., 313-521-0920

REGINES'S OFF THE PARK
711 East McNichols, 313-865-4747

DURHAM, NC

J&L's 2627 Hillsboro Road, Durham, 919-286-5032

POWER COMPANY
315 W. Main Street, Durham, 919-683-1151 Blackest - Sat.

LEGENDS
330 W. Hargett Street, Raleigh, 919-831-8888 — Fri. & Sat.

HOUSTON, TX

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2524 McKinney St., 713-237-9431. Fri, Sat & Mon. Black

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2800 S. Federal Hwy., Ft. Lauderdale 954-463-1507. Blackest on Sunday.

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SUGAR'S
17060 W. Dixie Hwy., North Miami, 305-940-9887. Blackest on Friday

WATERFRONT
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NASHVILLE, TN

THE CONNECTION
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NEW ORLEANS, LA

WOLFENDALE'S
834 N. Rampart, 504-596-2236

NEW YORK, NY

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ESCUELITA
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THE WAREHOUSE
141 E. 140th St., Bronx, 718-992-5974. Blackest on Saturdays

OAKLAND, CA

RIM SHOT
120 11th St., 510-444-2266. Black on Sat., Sun., & Wednesdays.

ORLANDO / TAMPA, FL

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745 Bennett Road, Orlando 407-228-8226. Blackest on Thursday, Friday and Saturday

PARLIAMENT HOUSE
410 N. Orange Blossom Trail, Orlando 407-425-7571. Blackest any night after 1 a.m. and Fridays & Saturdays.

SOUTHERN NIGHTS
375 S. Bumby Ave., Orlando, 407-898-0424. Blackest on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday

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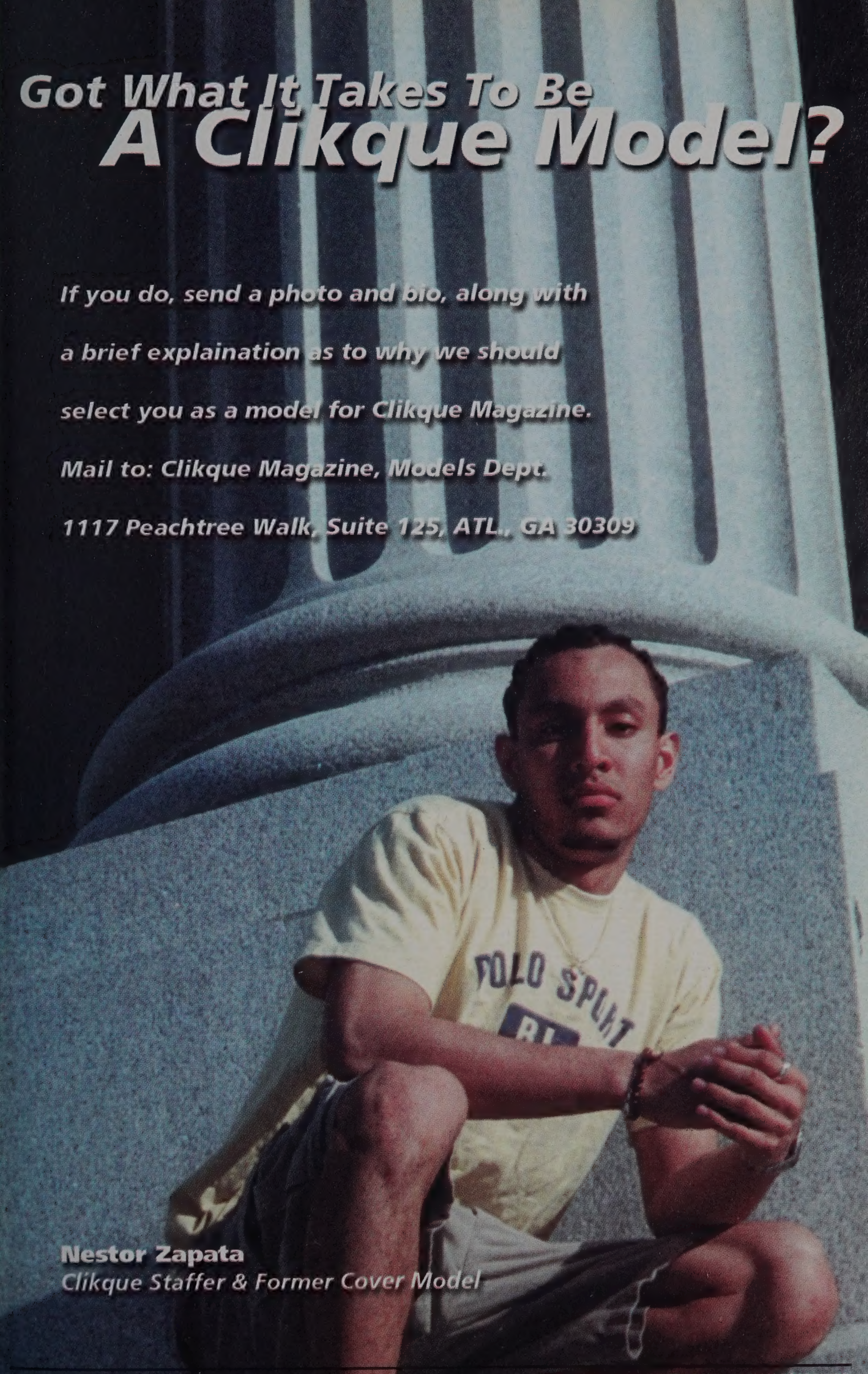

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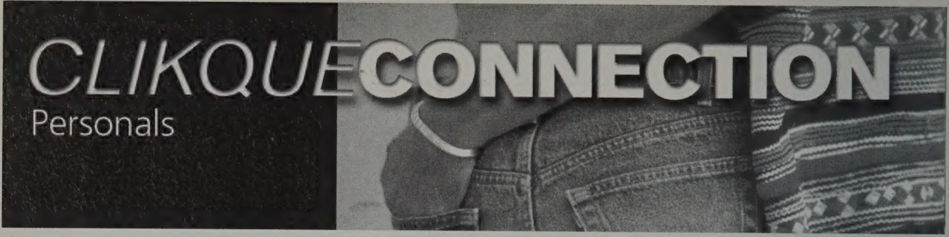

CLIKQUE CONNECTION

Personals

MEN: CALL 1-800-546-MENN FOR YOUR FREE PERSONAL

California

PARTY GUY Very good-looking African/American, 40, total bottom, party Guy. Seeking hot, erotic top who can take care of me. You will be pleased. (San Francisco) ☎10912

BODY BUILDER Very well-built, 24-year-old Male, 6'6", 250 lbs., shaved head, goatee, tattooed. If interested, leave a message. (Anaheim) ☎10599

I NEED A TEACHER GHM, 43, romantic, first time experience seeking patient friend, age open, who is a good instructor and willing to show me the way to having a good time. (Torrence) ☎10193

DAVE IS AN 18-year-old Male, well-endowed, very oral, enjoys anal sex. If interested, leave a message. ☎10766

EAGER FIRST TIMER Len is a 32-year-old Male, 5'9", 150 lbs., brown/brown, in good shape, tan. Seeking dominant, well-endowed, Daddy-type Male, for first time experience. (Palm Springs) ☎22695

NOT INTO PAIN Gary enjoys bondage. Seeking Male under 29, lean, hard body, muscular, thin, submissive, very oral, for fun times. #21389

THANK YOU SIR Jim is a 48-year-old WM, 5'10", 183 lbs., bottom, enjoys B&D, S&M, watersports. If interested, leave a message. #10751

LET'S HOOK UP Shawn is a 26-year-old Male, 6'0", 170 lbs., good-looking, brown/blue, well-endowed. Seeking Male to hook up with. (San Diego) %20800

Florida

GBM, 21, SEEKING B/HGM who is interested in hooking up with a definite bottom. If you are a hot top, let's talk and see where it goes. Give me a holler. (Miami) ☎10902

STRETCHY FABRICS TURN ME ON 49-year-old GWM, 5'11", HWP, good-looking, enjoys pantyhose, massage, touching, kissing, mutual masturbation, the outdoors, movies, theater. Seeking Male with similar interests. (Jacksonville) ☎10631

Georgia

VERY SEXY Reginald is a 34-year-old Male, 6'0", 180 lbs., HIV+, healthy, sexy, versatile. If interested, leave a message. (Atlanta) ☎11018

SEEKING SCORPIO OR TAURUS Wendell is a 44-year-old Male, smoker, drinker. Seeking a straight-acting Male. ☎10573

MASCULINE MEN ONLY Jimmy is a GBM, 5'7", 135 lbs., HIV+, versatile, attractive. Seeking masculine, discreet BM, for friendship, possible relationship. (Atlanta) ☎10468

NO STRINGS Donald is a 29-year-old Male, 5'7", 205 lbs. Seeking a well-endowed B/HM 35-60, for fun times. (Atlanta) ☎22796

LIKE TO FREAK? Tony is a brown-skinned BiM, 5'9", 170 lbs., 6". Seeking Male lat-30s, out-going, who likes to freak. ☎22481

VERY CUTE TV Very cute, passable TV, 5'11", n/s, laid-back, easy-going, enjoys lingerie, travel, dating, movies, dining out, cuddling, slow dancing. Seeking masculine Male, for possible relationship. ☎14299

WHAT'S UP GBM, 23, 5'11", 155 lbs., light complexion, hazel eyes, low fade. Seeking Male for friendship. (Atlanta) ☎21398

NOT INTO GAMES Dre is a 34-year-old BM, 5'10", 134 lbs., HIV+, healthy, versatile, attractive, sincere, understanding. Seeking Male for true friendship, possible relationship. ☎21055

FRIENDSHIP IN ATLANTA Marcus is a very attractive Male, 5'9", 160 lbs., clean-cut. Seeking masculine, top, muscular Male, for friendship in the Atlanta area ☎18374

KEVIN IS A 27-year-old WM, 5'8", 130 lbs., dark/blue, smooth. Seeking Male for friendship or whatever. (Atlanta) ☎20971

HIT ME BACK Dane is a 24-year-old BiWM, 6'3", 175-180 lbs., pierced, tattooed, shaved head, well-built, well-endowed, masculine. Seeking football player, military type, masculine Male. (Atlanta) ☎20663

KEEP IT ON THE DOWN LOW Lee is a straight-acting BM, 6'2". Seeking BM to hang with on the down low. (Atlanta) ☎20761

LET'S LIVE A LITTLE BTV, 28, looking for mature, understanding Guy who knows what he wants out of life. Let's build a meaningful relationship together. ☎20472

NEW TO ATLANTA GBM, 35, seeking BM, straight-acting, who is discreet. Interesting and fun times are ahead for the right person. Please leave a message. (Stone Mountain) ☎20438

ARE YOU READY? Young GBM, distinct bottom is seeking GM, definite top, any age or race, for a great time. (Atlanta) ☎19759

CAN YOU TOP THIS? R.K. is a 30-year-old BM, 5'11", 190 lbs., 36" waist, stocky build, brown complexion, low hair-cut, mustache, clean-shaven, bottom. Seeking top Male. ☎19092

WILL IT BE YOU? SBM, 6'4", 250 lbs, seeking nice Gentleman, race unimportant, for friendship and casual dating. Let's see if the magic is there for a new friendship. (Atlanta) ☎18290

FUN THAT'S IT African-American Male, enjoys sports, movies, hanging out. Seeking Male to have fun with. ☎14094

WHAT'S UP GBM, 23, 5'11", 155 lbs., light complexion, hazel eyes, low fade. Seeking Male for friendship. (Atlanta) %21398

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ENJOYS BEING TOUCHED Tana is a beautiful, older TV, mature, intelligent. Seeking Male for possible long-term relationship. #14299

HIT ME BACK Dane is a 24-year-old BiWM, 6'3", 175-180 lbs., pierced, tattooed, shaved head, well-built, well-endowed, masculine. Seeking football player, military type, masculine Male. (Atlanta) #20663

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FUN THAT'S IT African-American Male, enjoys sports, movies, hanging out. Seeking Male to have fun with. #14094

BIG GUY Kevin is a 33-year-old African-American Male, honest. Seeking cool, down-to-earth, honest, masculine Male, for friendship. (Atlanta) #15633

DAVID ON THE LINE GBM, 5'11", medium build, nice lips, attractive, bottom seeking H/BM, for casual dating and sharing good times. We can kick it if we are right for each other. (Atlanta) #14958

SERIOUS RELATIONSHIP POSSIBLE I am for real. GBM, 28, very attractive looking for a possible partner and long-term relationship. If you are serious and are commitment-minded let's see if we are right for each other. No fats or femmes. (Atlanta) #14285

MATURE WELL-TOOLED Mature very-pretty TV pre-op TS seeking loving, versatile oral top who can help me be a real Woman. You will be pleased. (Savannah) #14299

NO STRINGS ATTACHMENT GWM, 23, seeking GM, under 25, race is open, for sexual good times. Does this sound good to you? If so drop me a message. (Atlanta) #14757

LOW FADE GBM Rick is a GBM, 23, dark skin, 5'10", 155 lbs, very masculine, very professional seeking a buddy who deisres a new friend. Our relationship would be purely platonic. I am in a committed relationship and all that is wanted is a new friend to share some fun times together. #10053

BROTHER WANTS TO CHILL SBM, 5'9", 148 lbs, 24, discreet, bottom is seeking for a friend, Brother, top who wants more than a sexual relaltionship. We can have some great times together, let's try to connect. (College Park) #14401

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CATCH OF THE DAY GWM, 6'4", 195 lbs, very muscular, 45, very dark brown, blue eyes, very healthy, seeking well-endowed bottom GM, 6'+, who is romantic, nuturing, honest. Age and race is open. (Chicago) ☎10822

HISPANIC SCORPIO George is a 48-year-old GHM, 5'10", 150 lbs., Scorpio, bottom, passionate, sexual, enjoys gardening, cooking barbecuing, going out, quiet evenings, dining out, walks, biking.. Seeking Male top, with similar interests, for friendship, possible relationship. (Chicago) ☎10705

I LIKE MASSAGES BiWM, 31, open-minded, sincere seeking friend who enjoys massages, interesting times and some new adventures. Let's try to connect and give it a go. ☎10341

NEW TO CHICAGO Carlos is B/HM, 5'6", 34" waist, new to the area. Seeking a down-to-earth, well-endowed Male to hook up with. (Chicago) ☎10231

BATMAN SEEKING ROBIN Masculine, 35-year-old Male, 6'0", 185 lbs., enjoys costumes, mild bondage, toys, restraints. Seeking submissive, Male 21-45, under 5'9", with similar interests. ☎10435

Michigan

NEED TAKE CHARGE TOP Experienced bottom. Seeking GM, over 45, who loves to be a top. I am into most everything, also fun to be with. Give me a try, you will be pleased. (Detroit) ☎10899

YOU WON'T BELIEVE Semi-Virgin CD, 50, tall, slender seeking GWM, under 50, for exotic adventures beyond reality. (Detroit) ☎10711

AUTHENTIC, TRADITIONAL SPANKING Bud is 6'3", 220 lbs., dark/dark, mustache, muscular, enjoys spanking. Seeking an older Male, with similar interests. (Detroit) ☎10734

30-YEAR-OLD GAM, 5'9", 190 lbs. Seeking mature, sincere, educated, healthy GWPM, for friendship, possible relationship. (Detroit) ☎10702

DRESS-UP WITH YOU Feminine, 40-year-old GWM, thin, smooth, sexy. Seeking light complexion, thin, feminine, A/BMTV (Detroit) ☎10603

KEEP IT ON THE DOWN LOW Tony is a brown-skinned Male, 210 lbs., bald, nicely built. Seeking masculine, dominant, discreet, dark-skinned, stocky BM, for hanging out and friendship. (Detroit) ☎10400

WHOLESOME LIFESTYLE GBM, 33, very Single, 5'10", 150 lbs, clean-shaven, short hair, ISO GBM, 30-45, dark skin, masculine, sincere, honest, loyal are very important factors. Friendship, companionship and possible LTR for the right person. Let's talk. (Detroit) ☎22609

ACTOR IN DETROIT Matty is a 25-year-old W/HM, 5'5", 170 lbs., brown/green. Seeking Male for friendship. (Grosse Point) ☎10281

ARE YOU NAUGHTY? SWM, 45, 6'2", 200 lbs, interested in both giving and receiving spanking. Let's give it a go, you will be pleased. (Detroit) ☎10150

ARE YOU WELL HUNG? GBM, 28, very freaky, 6'3", bald, dimples, well hung seeking GM, 18-25, well-endowed who desires some new experiences and new adventures. Horny and ready to go. (Detroit) ☎10144

LIFE AND LOVE Jerry is a GWM, 6'2", 172 lbs., secure, established, attractive, enjoys running, kayaking, blading, biking, movies, theater, weekend getaways. Seeking similar, sincere Male for friendship, possible relationship. ☎22675

BM ONLY 25-year-old BM, 6'3", 185 lbs. Seeking younger BM, if interested, leave a message. (Detroit) ☎10080

WHAT'S UP FELLAS? Chris is a 30-year-old BM, 5'9", 150 lbs., attractive. Seeking Male for friendship. (Detroit) ☎22711

CALL ME Ervin is a BM, 6'1", 165 lbs., looking for a good time. (Detroit) ☎22541

NO TIME FOR GAMES 41-year-old GWM, 5'8", 165 lbs., brown/hazel, beard, mustache, HIV+, healthy, attractive, down-to-earth, practical. Seeking GBM 30-55, for quality time. (Detroit)

New York

LET'S HANG OUT TOGETHER GWM, 42, very handsome, muscular ISO counterpart who is interested in a new friend. Many possibilities exist for a great friendship. (NYC) #14845

HOT TIME IN BIG APPLE GWM, 6'2", 185 lbs, black/brown, 8" enjoys all sports, seeking GM, age and race open, for threesome, foursome or whatsome. Give me a call. (New York City) _14810
☎22721

Tennessee

YOU CALL I HAUL GWM, very submissive seeking dominant Male who can show me the ropes in how to become a very obident slave. (Memphis) ☎10843

Texas

FIT THIS DESCRIPTION? Cupid is a 21-year-old Male, 5'7", 125 lbs., enjoys singing, dancing, writing music, modeling. Seeking tall Male, 20-30, nice personality, good-humored, fun-loving. (Houston) ☎10776

OPEN TO ANYTHING Leo is a BM, 5'8", 175 lbs., light complexion, HWP, enjoys having fun, going out. Seeking Male for friendship, possible relationship. (Houston) ☎10503

HIT ME SBM, enjoys having fun, chillin. Seeking versatile SBM, with similar interests. (Houston) ☎10078

RAUNCHY LEATHER DADDY Jay is 5'10", 185 lbs., short hair, clean-shaven. Seeking pig boy bottom. ☎22782

Virginia

CONSIDERED ATTRACTIVE 28-yeaer-old GWM, 6'0", 170 lbs., black/hazel, 32" waist, very attractive. Seeking straight-acting/appearing Male. #17546

FIRST TIME Attractive WM, 6'0", 190 lbs, curious. Seeking an aggressive, good-looking, slim, uncut Male, for first time experience. (Chesterfield) #15741

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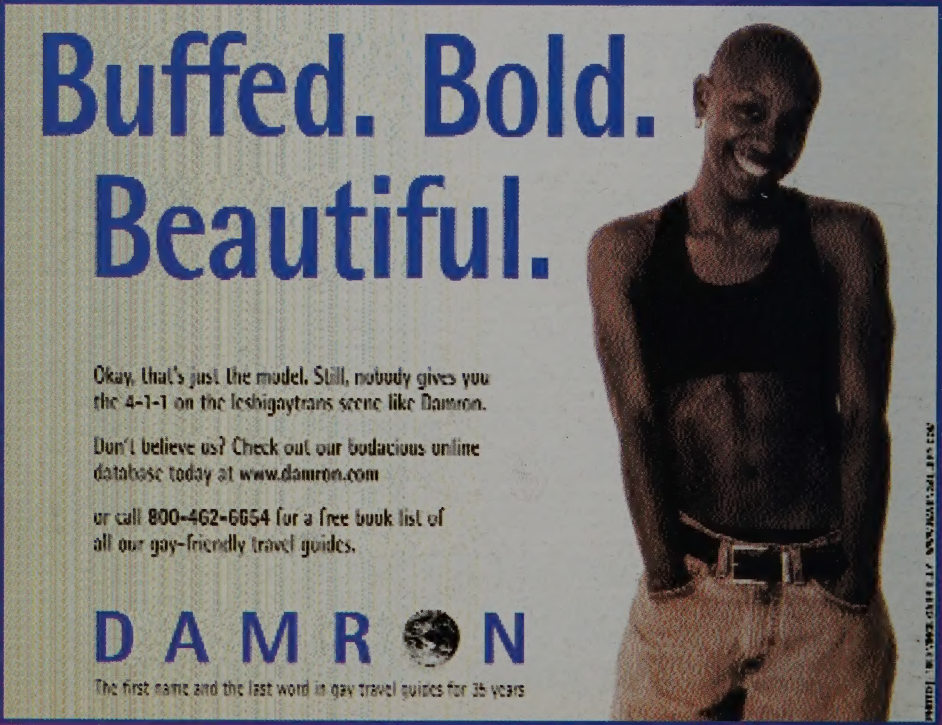

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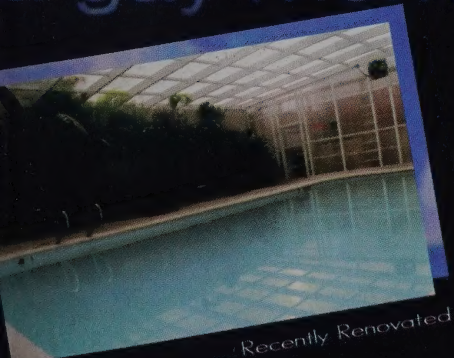
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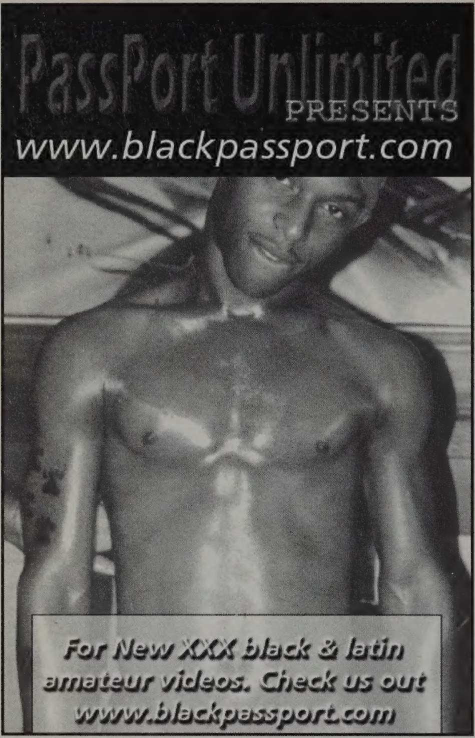
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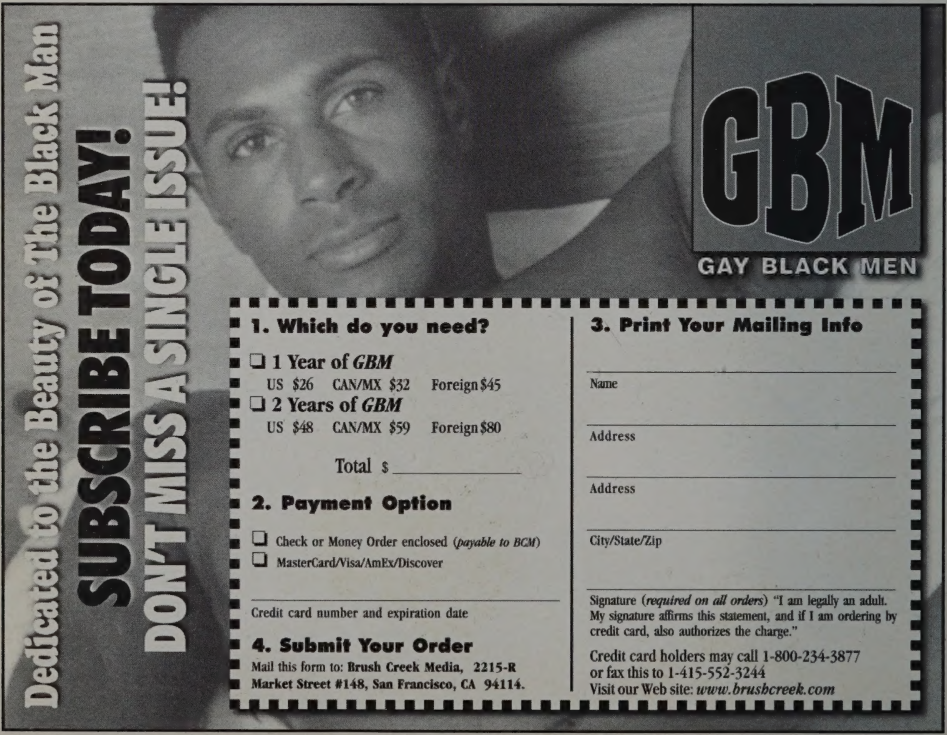
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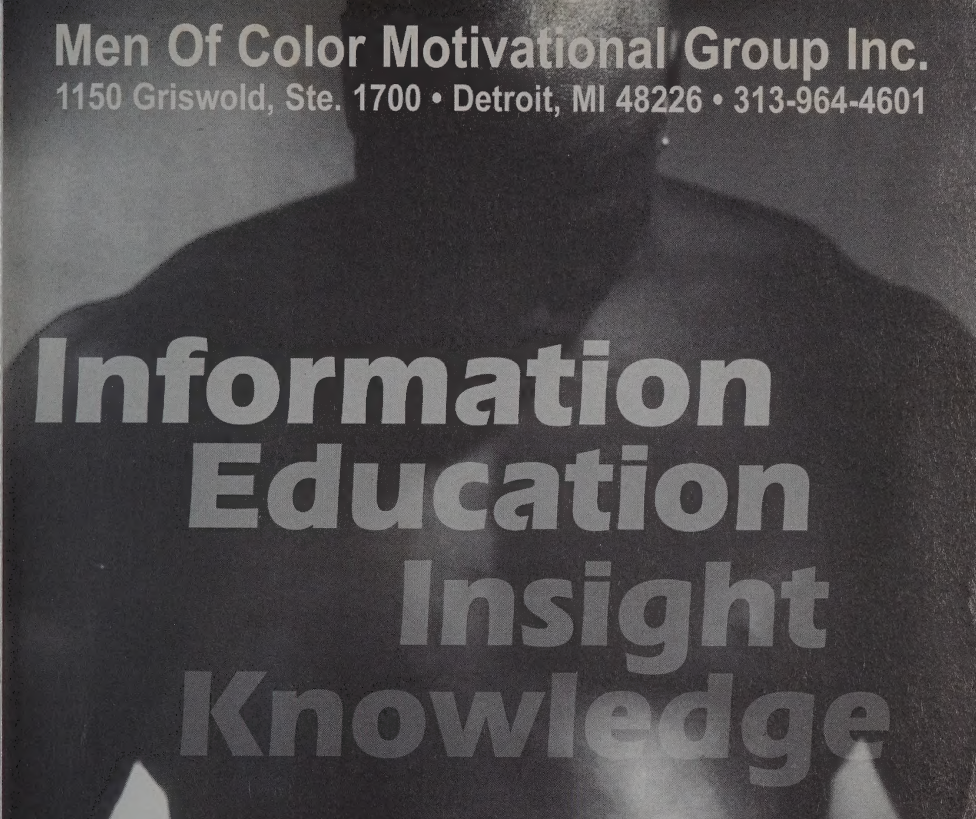
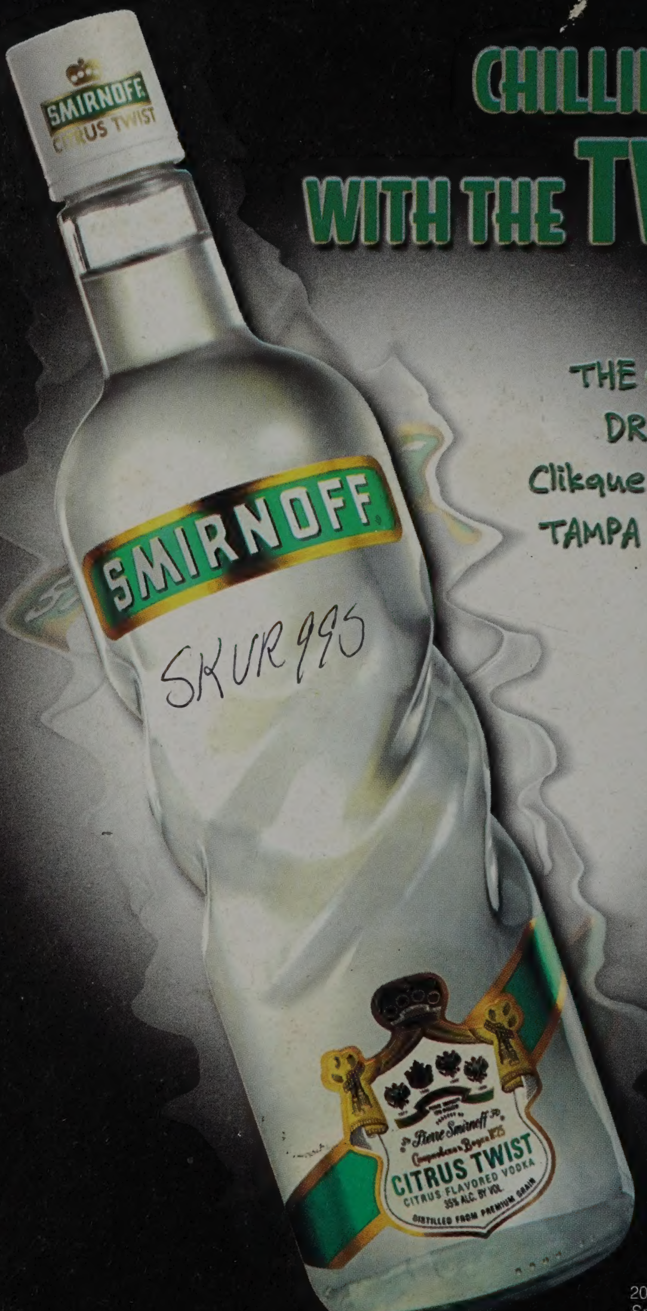


MEN OF COLOR MOTIVATIONAL GROUP INC. strives to empower African-American gay/bisexual/transgender men by providing information, education, insight, and knowledge on day to day issues in the African-American community. MOC advocates positive health strategies and non-biased information dissemination and education. Education and motivation of African-American men is our primary concern in order to bridge gaps of understanding and knowledge. We encourage openness, trust, and most of all mutual respect for one another.

Although the need of the African-American male is our primary focus, Men of Color welcome the participation of all community minded individuals. Our organization is equally aware of and sensitive to the needs of the community as a whole.

Components of our program include safer sex workshops, providing speakers for organizations and community outreach efforts, primary and secondary prevention case management and housing assistance programs, bars, and club outreach, material distribution and HIV/AIDS Peer Training, and HIV/AIDS Anonymous/Confidential Counseling and Testing.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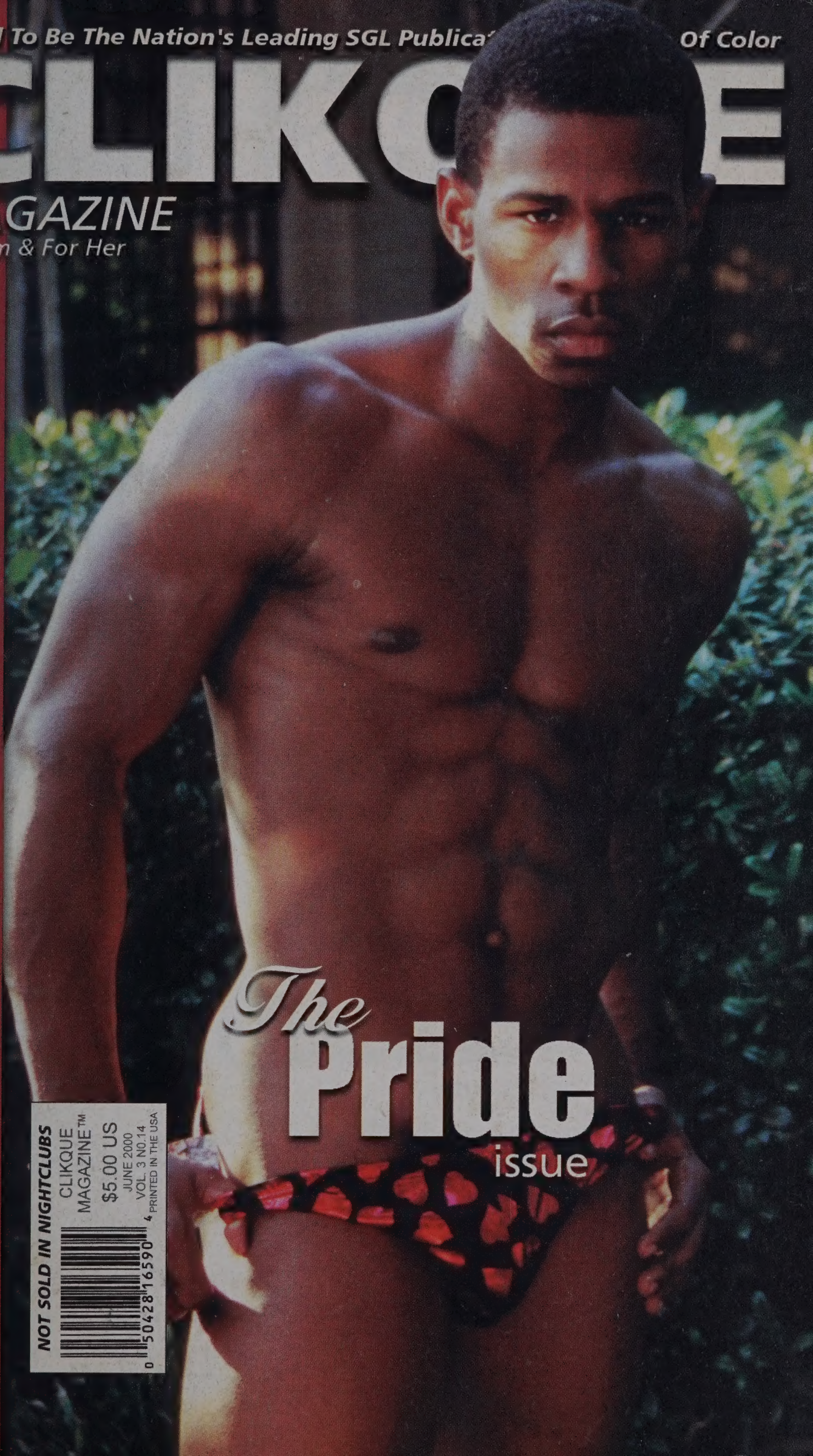

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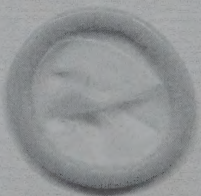

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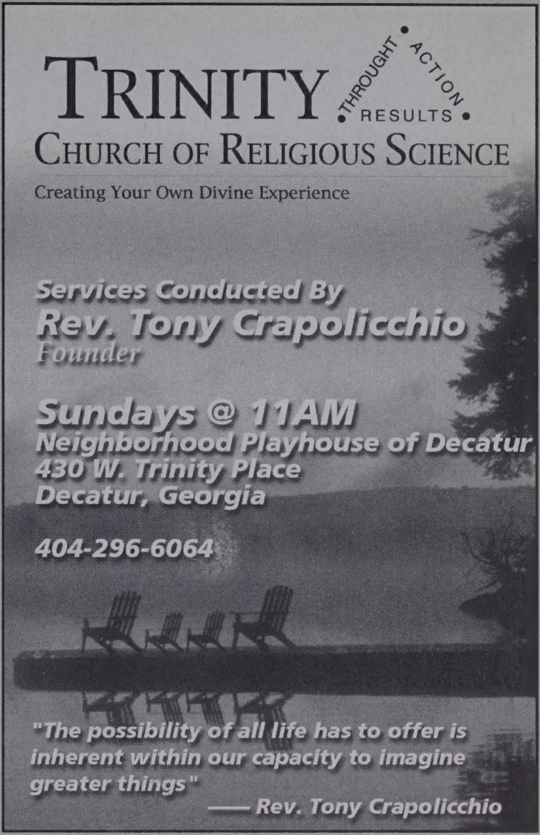

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Powerful Therapy That Fits the Way You Live

LOWER VIRUS LEVELS—LONGER

SUSTIVA isn't just effective in combination treatment of HIV-1 infection; it's effective long-term. In clinical studies, combination therapies containing SUSTIVA were proven superior to protease inhibitor–containing regimens in lowering the HIV virus to levels that were undetectable.[1] In one study, SUSTIVA kept it at those levels for more than two years.[2]

TAKE IT JUST ONCE A DAY

SUSTIVA fits the way you live because you take it just once a day. It can be taken with or without meals, and there's no need to drink lots of liquid.

GENERALLY TOLERABLE SIDE EFFECTS

SUSTIVA is generally well tolerated, with fewer gastrointestinal (GI) side effects, such as nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea, than Viracept®*.[3] Diabetes, kidney stones, and life-threatening liver problems are rare.

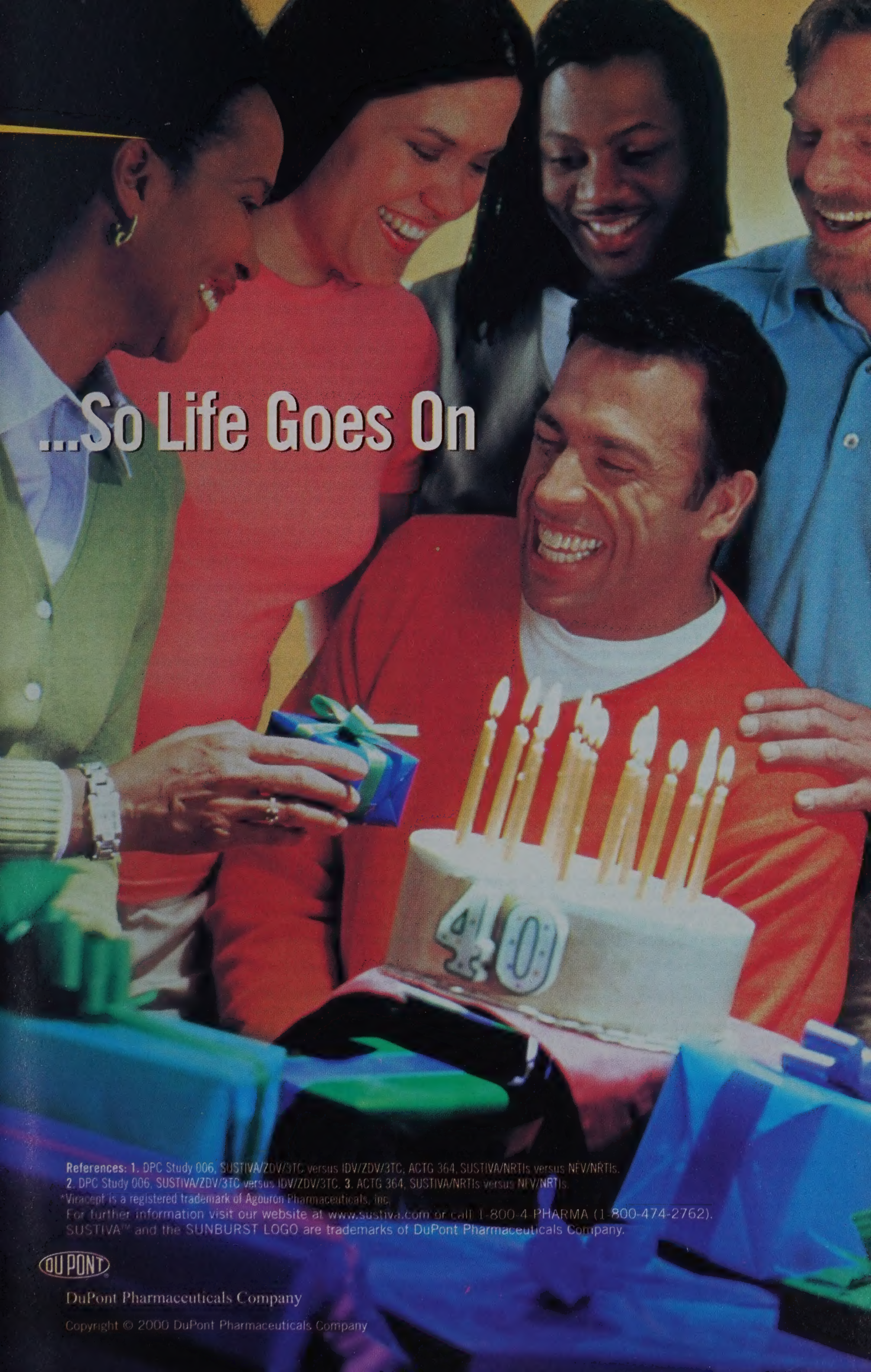
SAFETY INFORMATION

Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams a few hours after starting SUSTIVA. They tend to go away after you have taken the medicine for a few weeks. A small number of patients have had severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. If you have these symptoms, you should contact your doctor immediately to discuss your therapy. There have been a few reports of suicide, but SUSTIVA has not been established as the cause. Women should not become pregnant while taking SUSTIVA because birth defects have been seen in cynomolgus monkeys given SUSTIVA. See Patient Information about SUSTIVA on the following pages.

Once Daily

SUSTIVA™

efavirenz



References: 1. DPC Study 006, SUSTIVA/ZDV/3TC versus IDV/ZDV/3TC; ACTG 364, SUSTIVA/NRTIs versus NFV/NRTIs.
2. DPC Study 006, SUSTIVA/ZDV/3TC versus IDV/ZDV/3TC. **3.** ACTG 364, SUSTIVA/NRTIs versus NFV/NRTIs.
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capsules

Patient Information about SUSTIVA* (sus-TEE-vah)
for HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) Infection
Generic name: efavirenz (eh-FAH-vih-rehnz)

Please read this information before you start taking SUSTIVA. Read it again each time you refill your prescription, in case there is any new information. Don't treat this leaflet as your only source of information about SUSTIVA. Always discuss SUSTIVA with your doctor when you start taking your medicine and at every visit. You should remain under a doctor's care when using SUSTIVA. You should not change or stop treatment without first talking to your doctor.

What is SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is a medicine used to help treat HIV, the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). SUSTIVA is a type of HIV drug called a "non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor" (NNRTI).

How does SUSTIVA work?

SUSTIVA works by lowering the amount of HIV in the blood (called "viral load"). SUSTIVA must be taken with other anti-HIV medicines. When taken with other anti-HIV medicines, SUSTIVA has been shown to reduce viral load and increase the number of CD4 cells (a type of immune cell in blood). SUSTIVA may not have these effects in every patient.

Does SUSTIVA cure HIV or AIDS?

SUSTIVA is not a cure for HIV or AIDS. People taking SUSTIVA may still develop other infections associated with HIV. Because of this, it is very important that you remain under the care of your doctor.

Does SUSTIVA reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

SUSTIVA has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others. Continue to practice safe sex, and do not use or share dirty needles.

How should I take SUSTIVA?

- The dose of SUSTIVA for adults is 600 mg (three 200 mg capsules, taken together) once a day by mouth. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower (see **Can children take SUSTIVA?**).
- Take SUSTIVA at the same time each day. You should take SUSTIVA at bedtime during the first few weeks or if you have side effects, such as dizziness or trouble concentrating (see **What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?**).
- Swallow SUSTIVA with water, juice, milk or soda. You may take SUSTIVA with or without meals; however, SUSTIVA should not be taken with a high fat meal.
- Do not miss a dose of SUSTIVA. If you forget to take SUSTIVA, take the missed dose right away. If you do miss a dose, do not double the next dose. Carry on with your regular dosing schedule. If you need help in planning the best times to take your medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- Take the exact amount of SUSTIVA your doctor prescribes. Never change the dose on your own. Do not stop this medicine unless your doctor tells you to stop.
- When your SUSTIVA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to SUSTIVA and become harder to treat.

Can children take SUSTIVA?

Yes, children who are able to swallow capsules can take SUSTIVA. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower than the dose for adults. Capsules containing lower doses of SUSTIVA are available. Your child's doctor will determine the right dose based on your child's weight.

Who should not take SUSTIVA?

Do not take SUSTIVA if you are allergic to SUSTIVA or any of its ingredients.

What other medical problems or conditions should I discuss with my doctor?

Talk to your doctor right away if you:

- Are pregnant or want to become pregnant
- Are breast-feeding
- Have problems with your liver, or have had hepatitis
- Start or change any medicine
- Have side effects while taking SUSTIVA
- Have a history of mental illness, substance or alcohol abuse

What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?

A small number of patients have had severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. Some patients have had thoughts of suicide and a few patients have actually committed suicide. These problems tend to occur more often in patients with a history of mental illness. You should contact your doctor immediately if you think you are having these symptoms, so your doctor can decide whether you should continue to take SUSTIVA.

Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams a few hours after starting treatment with SUSTIVA. These feelings may be less noticeable if you take SUSTIVA at bedtime. They also tend to go away after you've taken the medicine for a few weeks. If you have these side effects, such as dizziness, it does not mean that you will also have severe depression, strange thoughts or angry behavior. Tell your doctor promptly if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. There is the possibility that these symptoms may be more severe if SUSTIVA is used with alcohol or mood altering (street) drugs. You should avoid driving or operating machinery if you are having these side effects.

One of the most common side effects is rash. These rashes usually go away without any change in treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. If you develop a rash, call your doctor promptly.

Other common side effects include tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, and diarrhea. However, this is not a complete list of side effects reported with SUSTIVA when taken with other anti-HIV drugs. Do not rely on this leaflet alone for information about side effects. Your doctor can discuss a more complete list of side effects with you.

Please contact your doctor immediately before stopping SUSTIVA because of side effects. Tell your doctor or other healthcare provider if you notice any side effects while taking SUSTIVA.

What about birth control, pregnancy, or breast-feeding?

Women should not become pregnant while taking SUSTIVA. Birth defects have been seen in animals treated with SUSTIVA. It is not known whether this could happen in humans. You should use a condom or diaphragm in addition to other methods of birth control while taking SUSTIVA. Inform your doctor immediately if you are pregnant. If you want to become pregnant, talk to your doctor. Do not take SUSTIVA if you are breast-feeding. Talk to your doctor if you are breast-feeding your baby.

Can I take other medicines with SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines (including ones for HIV). Your doctor may change your medicines or change their doses. For this reason, it is very important to:

- Let all your doctors and pharmacists know that you take SUSTIVA.
- Tell your doctors and pharmacists about all medicines you take. This includes those you buy over-the-counter and herbal or natural remedies.

Bring all your medicines when you see a doctor, or make a list of their names, how much you take, and how often you take them. This will give your doctor a complete picture of the medicines you use. Then he or she can decide the best approach for your situation.

The following medicines may cause serious and life-threatening side effects when taken with SUSTIVA. You should not take any of these medicines while taking SUSTIVA**:

- Hismanal® (astemizole)
- Propulsid® (cisapride)
- Versed® (midazolam)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Ergot medications (for example, Wigraine® and Cafergot®)

The following medicines may need to be changed or have their dose changed when taken with SUSTIVA**:

- Crixivan® (indinavir)
- Fortovase® (saquinavir)
- Biaxin® (clarithromycin)

How should I keep SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is available as 50 mg, 100 mg, and 200 mg capsules.

Keep SUSTIVA at room temperature (77°F) in the bottle given to you by your pharmacist. The temperature can range from 59°-86°F.

Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children.

How can I learn more about SUSTIVA?

Talk to your doctor or other healthcare provider if you have questions about either SUSTIVA or HIV. For additional information you can visit the SUSTIVA website at http://www.sustiva.com.

This medicine was prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use it for any other condition or give it to anybody else. Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children. If you suspect that more than the prescribed dose of this medicine has been taken, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

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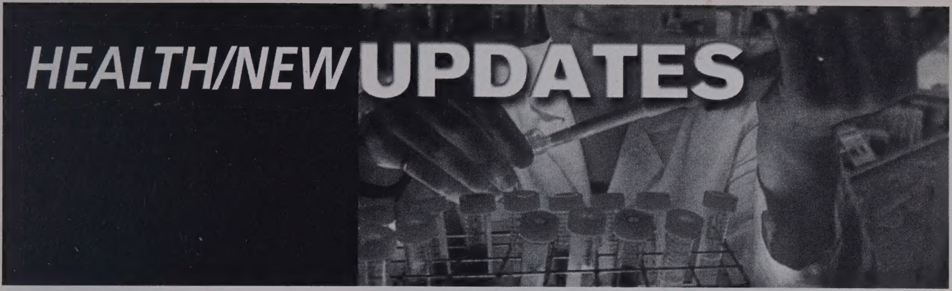
HEALTH/NEW UPDATES



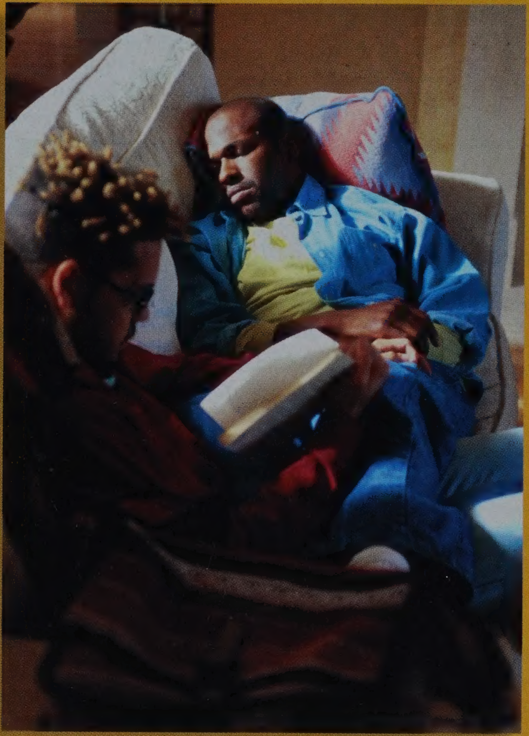
■ The American Psychological Association Council of Representatives adopt new guidelines for the treatment of gay,lesbian, and bisexual clients. According to a press release sent to the Clikque offices, the APA have devised new guidelines that "encourage all mental health providers to recognize how their own attitudes and knowledge about gay, lesbian, anmd bisexual people may affect their assessment and treatment of" these clients. These guidelines are not standards accompianied by enforcement mechanisms but are designed to serve as educational tools.
These new guidelines recognize that Gay, lesbian, and bisexual persons seek treatment in greater proportions that heterosexual counterparts and should therefore be afforded "unbiased and informed treatment." "The basis of the guidelines is the understanding that on the part of the mental health community that homosexuality and bisexuality are in no way indicative of mental illness."

■ Alzheimer's Association launces a redesigned and expanced web site. The site is very user friendly and will afford families and friends easier access to important facts, treatment , research, and local association chapters for those seeking support and information. The Alzheimer's Association will hold its World Congress 2000 July 9-18 in Washington,D.C.. More information can be obtained by contacting Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Association, Inc., at www.alz.com or www.alzheimer2000.org or by calling 312-335-8700.

■ HIV/AIDS Facts: While treatment options and medical advances continue to improve African - Americans calso conmtinue to be impacted by this deadly virus and disease in larger numbers grosely out of proportion to their presence in the population. For example, **NEW YORK RANKS #1** in total AIDS cases- but African American's are only 23% of the population and are 42% of total AIDS cases in that city. **MIAMI RANKS #4** with 17% African American's in the city's population and an astounding 49% of all AIDS cases in that city. Philadelphia ranks #7, with an African Amercan population of 38% and a whopping 64% of all AIDS cases in the city. **NORFOLK RANKS #39** but has an African -American polulation of 38% and yet they carry 70% of total AIDS cases. Likewise **MEMPHIS RANKING #47** has an African American population of 54.5% and they carry 70% of the total AIDS cases in that town. And **CHARLOTTE RANKING JUST #55** has a polulation of 31% African-American and 69% in total AIDS cases.

■ AIDS is the number one cvause of death for Black men and women between the ages of 25-44, before heart disease, cancer, and homocide. It is the fifth leading cause of death for all Americans in this age group.

■ NeoPlanet, Inc., has pledged 1 million dollars to Project Inform on behalf of gay.com. For every download of the FREE HIVlife browser NeoPlanet will donate $1.00 to one of the nations most respected HIV/AIDS organizations. According to Shannon Kouts, of NeoPlanets "it is rare for non-profit organizations within the gay community... to enjoy direct benefits from the venture money flooding the New Economy." Well, our sources tell us that NeoPlanet, gay.com, and each person who downloads this FREE browser can make a big difference in sharing the wealth and impacting the lives of many. HIVlife browser can be downloaded by going to www.projectinform.org. This offer will remain in effect for the three months. So tell some friends.



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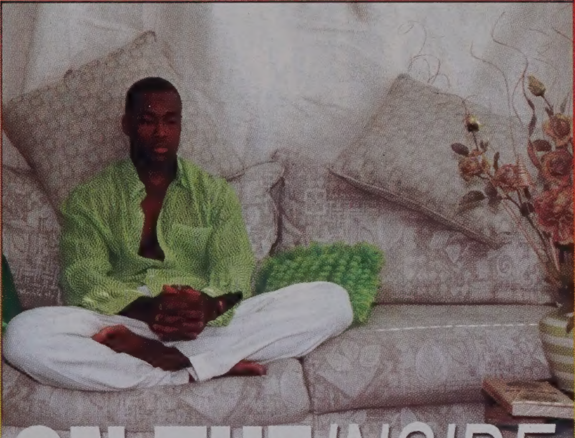
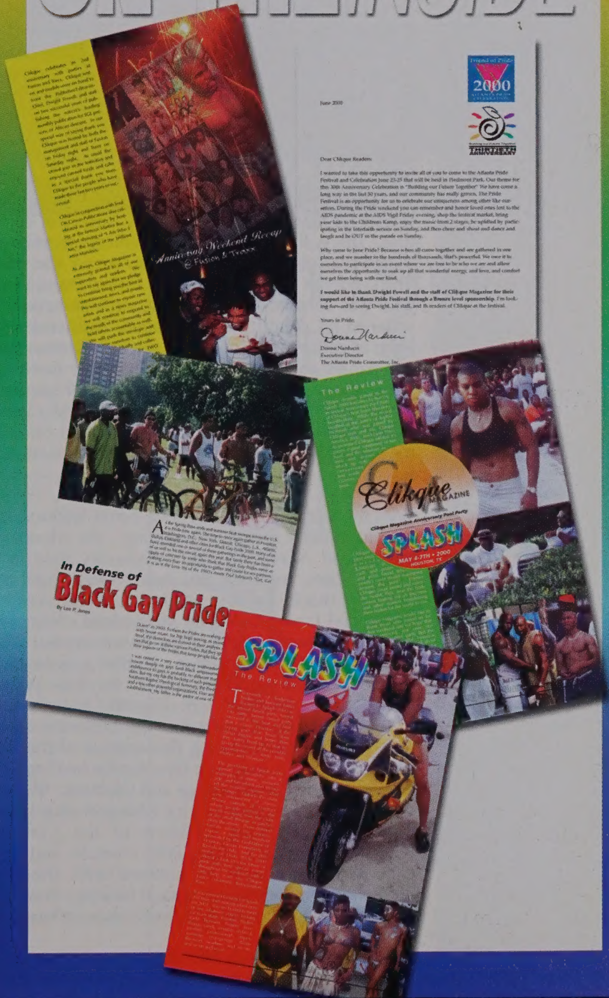


ON THE INSIDE


Anniversary Weekend Recap
@ Fusion & Traxx
In Defense of
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The Review
Clikque MAGAZINE
Clikque Magazine Anniversary Pool Party
SPLASH
MAY 4-7TH • 2000
HOUSTON, TX
SPLASH
The Review
Friend of Pride
2000
THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY

June 2000

Dear Clikque Readers:

I wanted to take this opportunity to invite all of you to come to the Atlanta Pride Festival and Celebration June 23-25 that will be held in Piedmont Park. Our theme for this 30th Anniversary Celebration is "Building our Future Together." We have come a long way in the last 30 years, and our community has really grown. The Pride Festival is an opportunity for us to celebrate our uniqueness among other like ourselves. During the Pride weekend you can remember and honor loved ones lost to the AIDS pandemic at the AIDS Vigil Friday evening, shop the festival market, bring your kids to the Children's Kamp, enjoy the music from 2 stages, be uplifted by participating in the Interfaith service on Sunday, and then cheer and shout and dance and laugh and be OUT in the parade on Sunday.

Why come to June Pride? Because when all come together and are gathered in one place, and we number in the hundreds of thousands, that's powerful. We owe it to ourselves to participate in an event where we are free to be who we are and allow ourselves the opportunity to soak up all that wonderful energy, and love, and comfort we get from being with our kind.

I would like to thank Dwight Powell and the staff of Clikque Magazine for their support of the Atlanta Pride Festival through a Bronze level sponsorship. I'm looking forward to seeing Dwight, his staff, and the readers of Clikque at the festival.

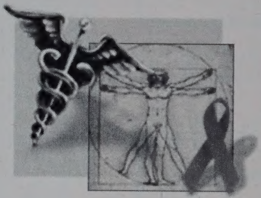
Yours in Pride,

Donna Narducci

Donna Narducci
Executive Director
The Atlanta Pride Committee, Inc.

HIV/AIDS Editorial

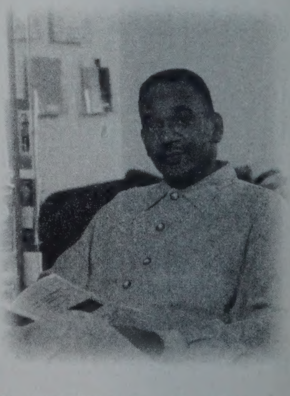
Dateline: May 14, 2000; reporting from the Southwestern Front: Dallas, Texas. I recently read that the United States' National Security Agency (NSA) now considers AIDS a threat to national and international security. Based upon this consideration they are advising our government leaders to respond to the epidemic, especially in Africa, as if it were a danger to the peace and security of this nation and the world. It is estimated that within a few years, perhaps, one fourth of all the people in Sub-Saharan Africa will have died from HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. It speaks volumes of the esteem in which a Black person's life is held that it is not until such death and devastation becomes a threat to non-Black people that others are willing to consider it an extreme emergency and thereby willing to take action to help. Needless to say this saddens me and should bring sadness to the hearts and souls of all Black people of African descent.



Recently, President Clinton issued an Executive Order allowing other nations, especially those in service to the Third World, to copy the formulas of anti-HIV drugs that have been developed by American companies. This will, hopefully, allow medications to be produced that people in Sub-Saharan Africa can afford. The Leader of the Majority in the United States Senate, who was vehemently opposed to such an action, has softened his rhetoric on this matter. Last week, in an effort to get ahead of the curve, several pharmaceutical companies announced a new pricing tier that would make the medicines more affordable for people in Africa. My hope is that we may transcend to a level of awareness and enlightenment whereby we can place the value of a human beings' life above corporate profit.

With the fact that AIDS in Africa could lead to global conflict I find it quite disconcerting – the silence – of the African American male community here in the United States, regarding this issue. One would think that the Blacks in this nation somehow were not descended from the African Motherland. We pay so little attention and have so little interest in what is happening there. I must caution you that as goes Africa, so go her descendents here in the Western Hemisphere. We must work diligently, conscientiously and constantly to overcome our collective shame, guilt and pain about being descendents of the Black Motherland. It is long past time for the healing of the wounds of the Great Passage and Captivity. We must wake up and see ourselves for who and what we are: the Stolen and Lost Children of the Cradle of Humankind – Africa. Spiritually, mentally and physically we must begin to connect with the Black Motherland to engender a mutual healing. A way has opened up and you will hear more about it later.

As a person living with HIV disease I am an anomaly. I, as a person, on treatments for HIV infection continue to defy conventional wisdom and the Federal Guidelines for Treatment of HIV Infection in Adults. I have no regrets. I was diagnosed with HIV infection in March of 1993. At that time my CD4 count was about 525. The test for Viral Load had not come into common usage at that time. Shortly after being diagnosed some other brothers and I concluded that HIV must be treated as a tertiary disease. I believed then and I believe now that HIV is a disease not only of the body but also of the mind and spirit. I have chosen to treat my infection on all three levels. When I received my first Viral Load results I had a viral load of 60,000. At that time my CD4 count was in the 500 to 550 ranges. I started taking Zerit as anti-HIV monotherapy in late 1995 (if my memory serves me correctly – one day I'll get the official medical records). In 1997 my CD4 count had slipped to 430 and my viral load was about 10,000. My doctor suggested adding another anti-HIV medicine so I started taking Epivir. I also take an antioxidant multivitamin and B-complex/B-12 vitamin. Today and for over two years my CD4 count has been over 1,000 and my Viral Load has been between 1,500 and 10,000. I am only 65% to 75%



By: Senior Staff Writer — Don Sneed
Director of Renaissance III, Dallas TX

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compliant with my drug regimen and sometimes I go a week or two without taking any anti-HIV medicines. I asked my doctor why my CD4 count is so high and why my Viral Load hovers in the range it does. He says that he does not quite understand it but he recommends that whatever I am doing to keep doing it. He has ventured to say that perhaps I was infected with a "weak" strain of HIV. After having gone through over 250 sex partners prior to HIV infection, and sharing needles with some, I doubt that I have a "weak" strain of HIV. I am an anomaly. I believe and I treat HIV on all three levels of its attack on a human: physically, mentally and spiritually. For the most part people are treating their HIV infection on one level: physically. It may be time for us to revisit the wisdom of this type of monotherapy.

I shared the aforementioned with you not to get anyone to change his or her anti-HIV treatment regimen but to give you a view from another place. It would be remiss of me not to share my personal experiences with the treatment of my own HIV infection with you. How you treat your HIV infection is left up to you in consultation with your health care provider. I will venture to say that treatment of HIV should be approached in a "wholistic" manner taking into account the mental and spiritual effects and implications of the infection. The fact that stress appears to cause immune system suppression is indicative of the need to revisit the treatment continuum of HIV to see what we are missing beyond the physical.

The Society of Eu-man has now become a reality. Please look for us in the next issue of Clikque. Until next month may the Love and Understanding of God be with you all my brothers and sisters.

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Anniversay Weekend Recap @ Fusion & Traxx

Clikque celebrates its 2nd anniversary with parties at Fusion and Traxx. Clikque writers and models were on hand to toast the Publisher/Editor-in-Chief, Dwight Powell, and staff on two successful years of publishing the nation's leading monthly publication for SGL persons of African descent. In our special way of saying thank you, Clikque was hosted by both Reggie Thomas and the staff of Fusion on Friday night and TRAXX on Saturday night. As usual the crowd join in the festivities and enjoyed catered foods and cake as a special thank you from Clikque to the people who have made these last two years so successful. Special Thanks to the staff and management at both clubs.

Clikque in conjunction with Soul On Canvas Publications also celebrated its anniversary by hosting at the famous Martini Bar, a special showing of "I Am Who I Am," the legacy of the brilliant artist Marvines.

As always, Clikque Magazine is extremely grateful to all of our supporters and readers. We want to say again that we pledge to continue bringing you the best in entertainment, news, and events. We will continue to expose new artists and as a news magazine we will continue to respond to the needs of the community and hold others accountable as well. We will push the envelope and challenge ourselves to continue growing individually and collectively. Thank You for TWO fantabulous years and here's to many, many, many more. Clikque and You, a perfect combination.

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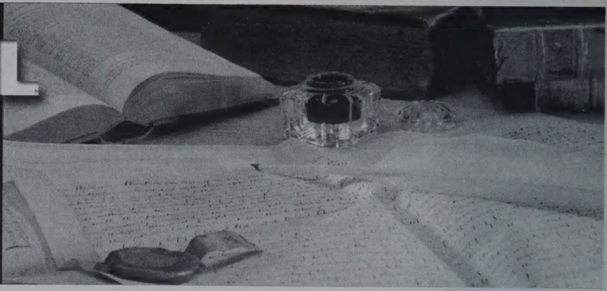
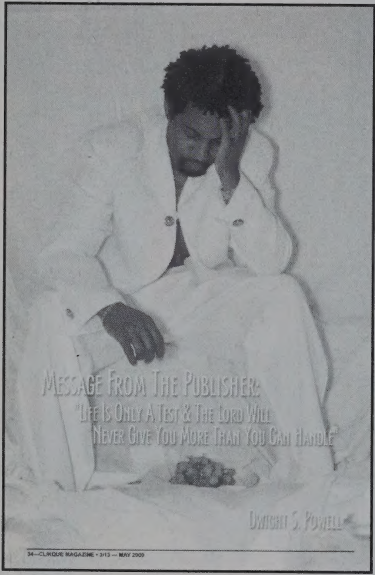
FANMAIL
Letter to the Editor



Dear Mr. Dwight Powell:

I can't imagine what stirs such confidence in someone such as yourself. It is admirable. It has taken me a lifetime to write a letter such as this and in some ways it's painful and in some ways soothing. I am still " hiding", so to speak, wearing a mask as I have for most of my life. This life has been a difficult one. It's so strange how other people can look at you and think you don't have problems or that you are such a good person, you are smart, good looking and all of the other things that constitute the human shell. Yet, I still lack the confidence I might otherwise have if I could just be who I am. The pain of self understanding can be crippling at times. It forms a layer of ice around your heart and you wear it like a second skin. However, when I see and read about men like you, it makes me so proud, and I am so inspired.I do know that as much torment as I feel at times, it seems to be balanced by a heightened sense of beauty. Seeing it in other people, in a child's smile or just looking at a blue sky. My belief in GOD is solid. I may question everyday how difficult my life feels to me, but I know that "He" likes me just the way I am. I am sure that "He" has been the source of my strength and survival.



MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLISHER:
"LIFE IS ONLY A TEST & THE LORD WILL NEVER GIVE YOU MORE THAN YOU CAN HANDLE"

DWIGHT S. POWELL

34—CLIKQUE MAGAZINE • 3/13 — MAY 2000

I could go on forever so I will just say, keep up the good work! Although it may be too late for me to take the giant step, only because I think I waited too long to take any kind of action. I am unsure of the "language" which gives way to my feeling sort of socially retarded. Perhaps one day I will find the courage. In the meantime, Peace and Blessings be with you always.

Sincerely,

Garrett Westbrook

Garrett Westbrook
Atlanta, Ga

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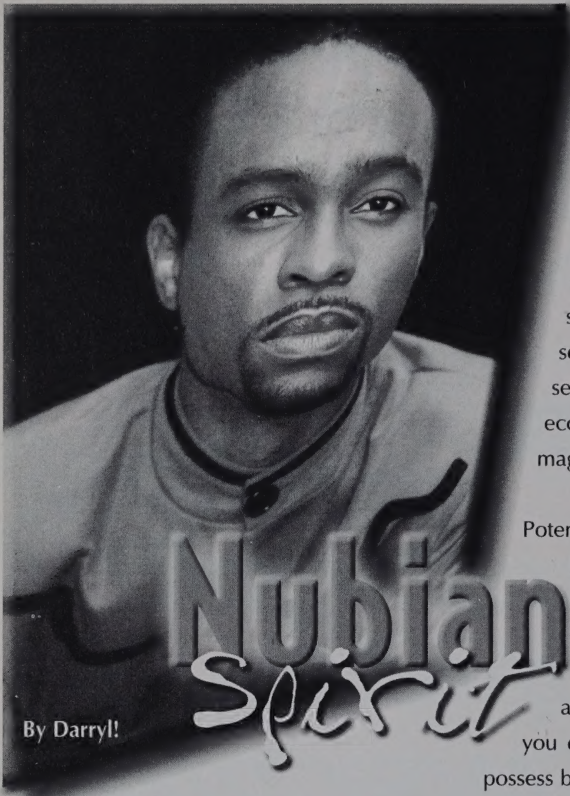


Nubian Spirit

By Darryl!

As we enter the season of Pride, it might be important for us to take a look at what we might want to gain from these pride experiences. Often times we enjoy the festivals, parades, and parties but only skim the surface of workshops, seminars, and discussion groups available for our personal growth. There are times when we do attend the workshops/groups in order to meet or follow that "someone" we spotted outside or down the hall.

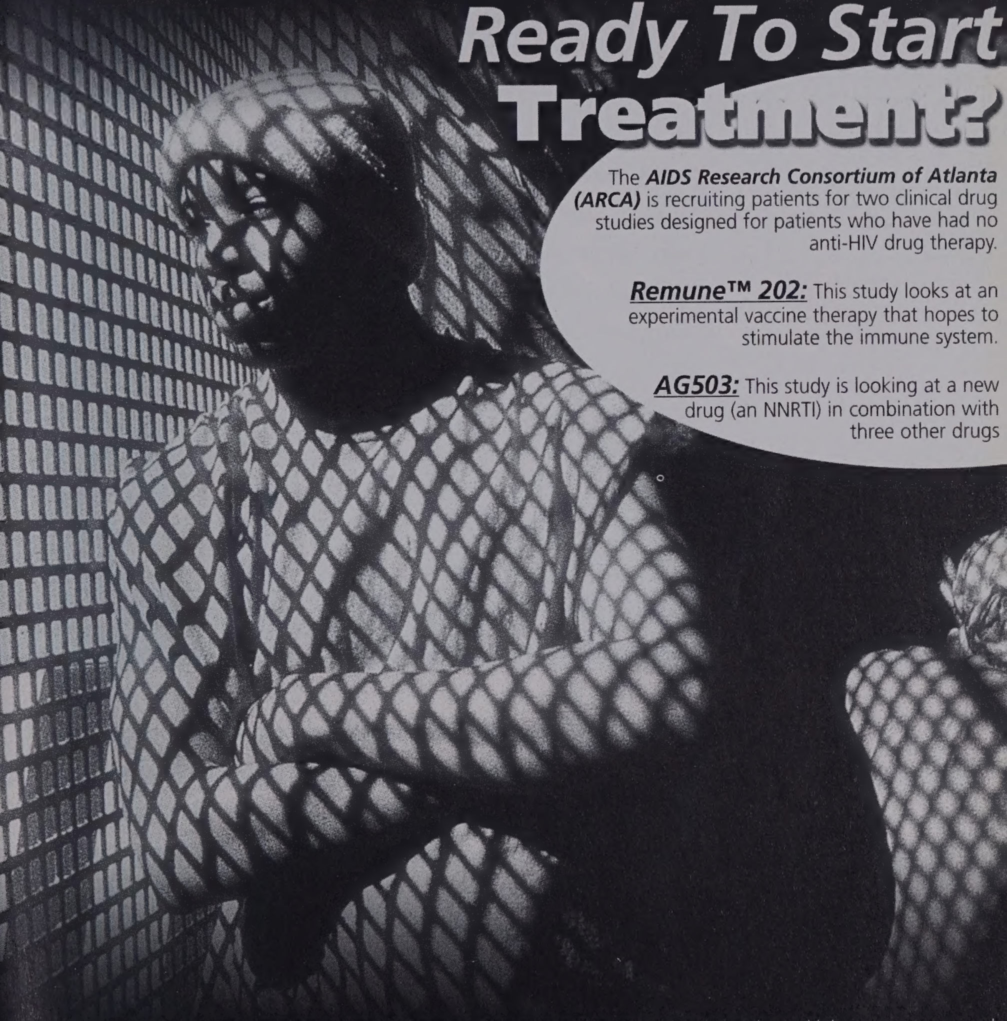
Expanding into your potential. Actualize your potential and reap the benefits of success and power which comes from the innermost divinity you possess.

While you are at the event stop for a minute and consider the power of the people around you. Take a moment to feel the energy of thousands of like minded people in the same place at the same time. Forget the minor things that make each of us different but for a single moment see yourself as one with everyone present. For a single moment see everyone as part of the same energy, same divine plan, and same essence. See no divisions or separations because of gender, religion, sexual experiences, age, culture, socio-economic strata, or disibility. Feel the magnatude of yourself with the people.

Potential is defined as "capable of being but not yet in existence;..." or "having possibility, capability, ... power.(AHCD)" Imagine that. You have potential- possiblity, capability and power. The question is what will you do with it. Will you be content top possess but not act on; or will you create what you want for yourself and others too? That is what Pride is about. It is recognizing what lies within and determining to actualize that in your daily life. Challenge yourself, this year, to meet the challenge of being you; totally, unapologetically, and undeniably you. The power to be is already within you. Freedom to live is already your right. Liberation is a state of mind.

Actualization means turning your potential into reality. Do some inventory on yourself. What possiblities and capabilities do you have? What latent power lies within you? What is it that you want out of life? Now, stop thinking and make it so. Peace and Blessings.

OK, You're HIV+



Ready To Start Treatment?

The ***AIDS Research Consortium of Atlanta (ARCA)*** is recruiting patients for two clinical drug studies designed for patients who have had no anti-HIV drug therapy.

Remune™ 202: This study looks at an experimental vaccine therapy that hopes to stimulate the immune system.

AG503: This study is looking at a new drug (an NNRTI) in combination with three other drugs

If you qualify for and enroll in either of these studies, you will be monitored closely, and laboratory tests, study visits and study drug and provided at no charge.

ARCA understands the emotions and challenges involved after being diagnosed HIV+, and has developed a program for newly diagnosed patients. **On Wednesdays between 9:00AM and 5:00PM**, we have trained counselors and clinicians on hand, who will gladly assist you with taking that important ***next*** step.

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AID Atlanta Announces
Hepatitis Awareness Campaign

AID
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www.aidatlanta.org

AID Atlanta officials announced plans today to launch a 3-month hepatitis A and B awareness campaign targeting gay/bisexual men. The poster and advertising campaign will feature three prominent entertainers, Bubba D. Licious, Monica Layne and Tina Devore. The ads will run during the summer months.

Last year, the AID Atlanta Board of Directors voted to expand the agency's HIV prevention efforts to include all sexually-transmitted infections (STI's) and hepatitis. "You cannot talk about HIV prevention and exclude other STI's, particularly those that are vaccine preventable, such as hepatitis A and B. We did one survey of gay and bisexual men that showed that less than 5% had been vaccinated against A and B, but 80% said they would get the shots if they were aware of the risk," reports Chris Parsons, AID Atlanta's Director of Education and Volunteer Services. "For those living with HIV/AIDS, hepatitis A and B infection can have greater adverse impact on the liver, which may already be affected by anti-retroviral therapy."

The campaign, funded by an educational grant from SmithKline Beecham, is designed to get gay and bisexual men talking about risk factors, such as rimming and unprotected anal sex, and to promote vaccination.

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"Girlfriend, yellow is NOT your color."

PHOTO: TIM WILKERSON

Turning yellow isn't the only thing hepatitis can do to you.
You may get really sick and miss a lot of work (not to mention no booze for 6 months).
Hep B can cause cancer, liver disease and even death.
But the good news is you can prevent hep A and B by getting vaccinated.

As a sexually active gay/bisexual man, you could be at risk for hepatitis.
Some activities, like tossing salad (rimming) or taking it without a condom, are very risky.
Be smart. Get the shots.

For the 411 on hepatitis, and where to get vaccinated,
call the Georgia HIV/STD Infoline at (404) 870-7775 or (800) 551-2728.

Brought to you by your friends at AID Atlanta
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Plight Of The Baby Stud

By: Jennifer Glover

Life has never been easy for me. Truthfully, it has been one rough road after another. However, throughout my turbulent youth and nightmare-like adulthood, I have not lost my focus. My true self, goals and determination have not wavered or changed.

When I was younger, I felt awkward and misunderstood. As adolescence disappeared, I noticed my style of dress intimidated and incited straight people. It made them uncomfortable, fueling the conflict within them. As I grew into womanhood, images of the proper lady continually flooded my consciousness. Everywhere I turned, on the television and in every magazine, the package I presented was not ideal. I was always too much or never enough! It resonated in my sleep. A proper lady is supposed to look like this, sit and smile like this etc. A respectful woman should walk like this, act this way, talk like this! Of course I was none of these things.

As a youth, if I was wearing anything other than Levi's, a Hanes T-shirt, construction boots and a baseball cap, something was wrong! If I was going out or attending a special function , a mens suit, shirt matching tie and shoes was my attire.

It was as if I and the thought of what I presented challenged peoples ideals,morals and their perception of freedom. What I represented crossed their boundaries and made them think. True I was labeled a bulldagger and a dyke, and yes I was confused. However, I wasn't confused about who I was. I was confused because people were judging me without knowing who I was or taking the time to get to know me.

As a young person, I refused to ignore my true self and was labeled a rebel. I embraced my diversity and my differences from others. I had and have a clear understanding and acceptance of who I am.

Just recently a friend brought something disheartening to my attention. My style of dress has come into question as it pertains to the African- American Lesbian Community. My friend informed me that slowly but surely I am achieving all of my journalistic goals and then some! She said I must eventually be ready to be a spokesperson for the passionate issues I am addressing. She said with this comes a huge responsibility. I then told her I thought my responsibility was to be cognizant of what I write , say on paper and in front of the media. She agreed then added, that's only half of it! She then said to represent such a vast diverse people, my public image means everything.

She said that she assumes the more visible I become at functions, clubs, or at church, my suits are a topic of critical discussion. According to their conversations, I'm trying to be something I'm not, I'm trying to be hard, or I am trying to project or portray an image outside of myself! I thought, what!? In these conversations it was said that my face was warm, pleasant, friendly and positive. “It’s like an oxymoron”! She also told me that these ladies feel that my suits project a masculine overpowering image! She said some felt my suit, shirt, tie and shoes make a negative statement that points to my personality! The clothing and how I wore it inflicted dislike and distance in their gapping eyes. I said, “huh”? According to the ladies, my suits are dark, butch, manly machimso and ganster-like. I stand out like a beacon.

My dear friend said that she defended me to the fullest, describing my personality and my journey. But then she asked “how can you relieve positive feedback, readership, or support from the African-American Lesbian Community if they cannot relate to your mannerisms and style of dress? Again she asked “ how can they as a community embrace you, this wonderful person who overtly outspoken in the the most positive way. She then suggested maybe I should tone it down’ change a bit alter myself! She said how unfair it would be for people, your people to cast you out before truly getting to know you.

I thought of what she said for a few minutes. For a moment I felt hurt and insulted. I told my friend I use to buy my suits with my paychecks from my after school job. I knew then and now that I am the epitome of diversity. I am the epitome of what I write. I told her that I am a visionary, a missionary and a devout revolutionary. This is who I am, and this is the package I come in. I wear what is comfortable and visually appealing to me. I do not try to make fashion statements or try to project multifaceted STUDNESS. What I wear should not define what type person I am. Stereotypical images pierce and puncture me. Faith tells me and others like me will be received as individuals living our own individual experiences as it unfolds.

I am forever guided by the spirit. I am always on a conscious path of truth, growth and a knowledge of self. I cannot alter myself as my friend kindly suggested. Altering who I am would be deviating from my truths. Something I live by is being true and honest with myself. I could lie to the world but deep within I would know the truth. This creates friction and resistance in the soul, it clashes. Eventually guilt and regret would take over.

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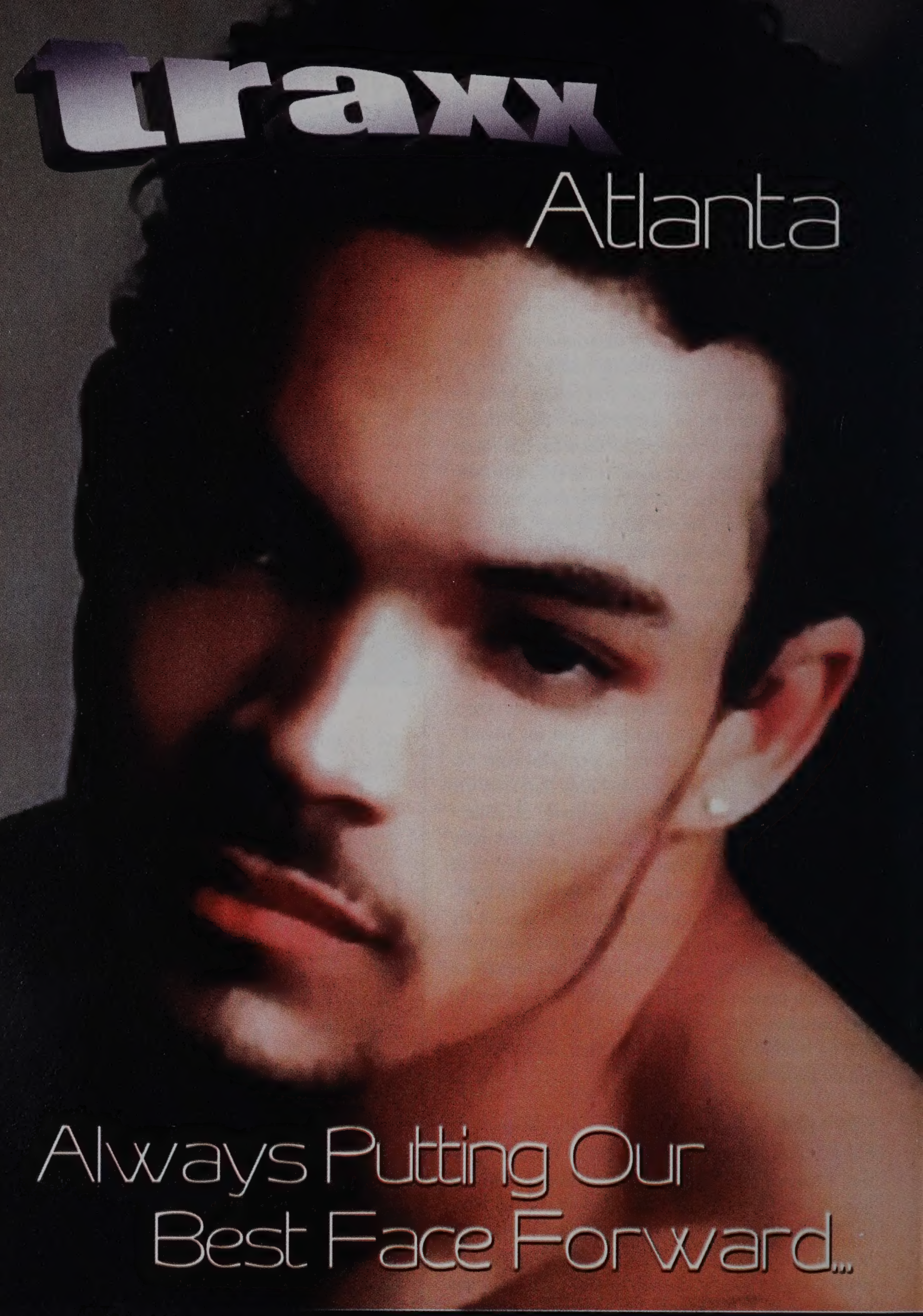
As I write I continually wonder what the women saw. What about the suit or suits affected them? I honestly don’t believe it was the clothing at all...Maybe they saw my motivation, assertiveness, my devotion and thirst for positive change. Maybe they saw the fact that I try to smile and stay positive no matter what. Or maybe they just noticed I walk with my head high, my shoulders back, looking people in the eye while giving firm handshakes. Maybe they saw I was proud and fearless. I don’t know.

I am almost positive they saw a massive power emanting from me! What people misunderstood or misinterpret is my conscientiousness of higher power residing within! It is the power and presence of my Devine Creator glowing and flowing through me!

In the near future I hope “people” eliminate stereotyping from their way of thinking and become less judgemental of others.



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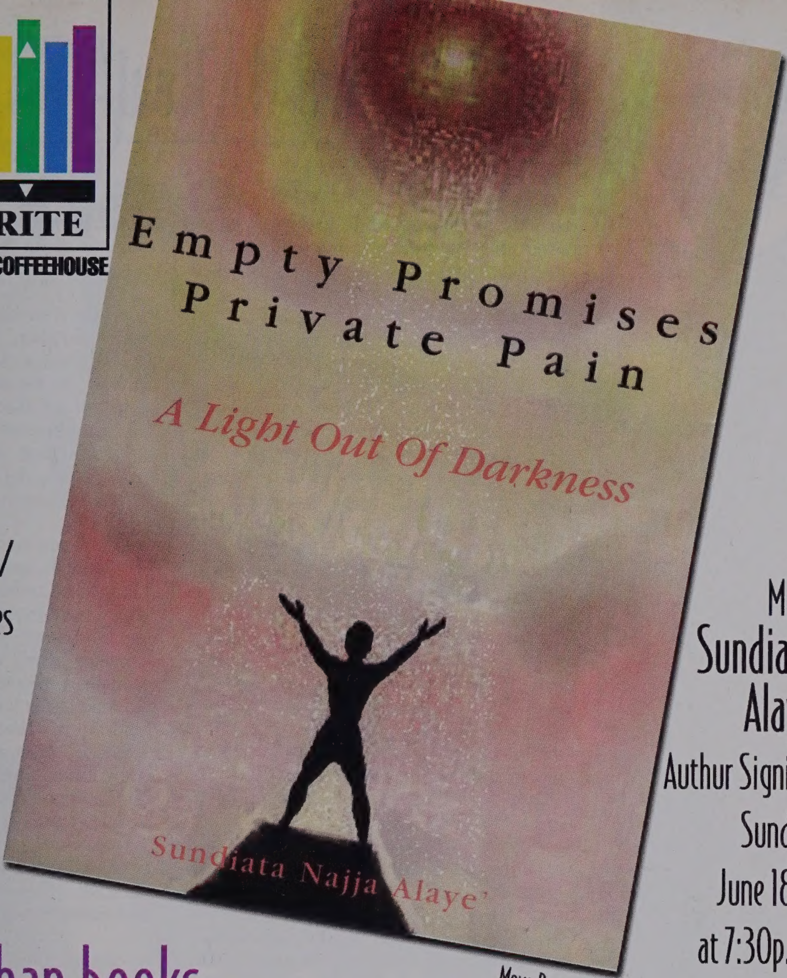
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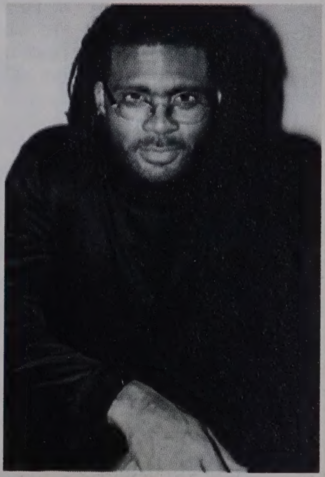

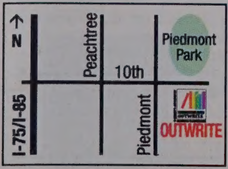
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POLITICS: Are We Really Invisible?

By: Jimmie Scott

Recently an Atlanta white gay male writer raised this question of invisibility aimed directly at Black GLBT people. I have asked myself this question every since I moved to this place some folks call "Hotlanta" almost five-years-ago. And though this question of invisibility pervades, puzzles, and perplexing all those who inquire, for me the answer is simple. Do we have the numbers? Sure we do; **all you have to do is go to any one of the Black queer bars on a Friday or Saturday night and your eyes will find a never-ending stream of beautiful, vibrant, Black men and women, because the "children" love to have a good time.** The good times continue on Sunday afternoon in another well-known bar where plenty of "children" play Bizwiz and smoke wreefer in the back of the club. **However, when it comes time for the "political," a game of hide-and-seek instantly becomes NOT the exception, but the rule! Why?**

From a political perspective, with the exception of a few notable behind the scenes Black players, the rest of "our" community seldom registers on the Reicter scale. Do we vote? Sure we do! Are we willing to stand up and be counted? Well that's another story all together now isn't? Yea, yea, yea. Sure I know some of you would argue, that we need to first overcome years of oppression, and others might say our community needs to work on overcoming the depression of Internalized Homophobia, and I "agree." However, what about the rest of us? People from across the country consider Atlanta to be the cradle of the Civil Rights Movement. We have a local and county government made-up of people who look and talk like us, yet, when they want to hear "our" voices, most of us cannot be found. Why? Our community is made-up of so many intelligent, articulate, upwardly mobile, same-gender-loving-people, yet without thinking or caring about your opinion, gay-white-men speak so easily for YOU. What's up with that?

After traveling and sitting in on the predominantly white-male "circles and tables" of gay power, I still find it amazing how a few of the Black "usual suspects" have the unique burden of representing an entire race of people. What's more amazing is the "thought or notion" that whites should come directly to us, and invite us, to give our opinions about the GLBT rights movement.

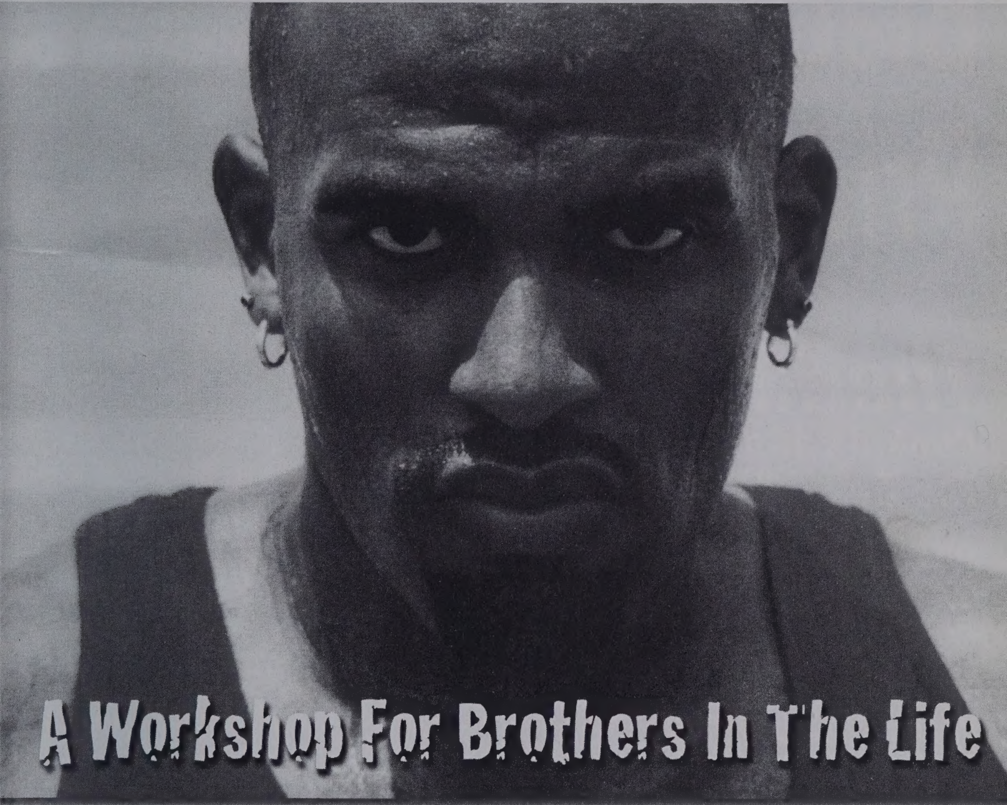
However, if we continue to wait for an invitation, we will never get a chance to go to the "prom!" As the old cliché says, "together we stand divided we fall," so instead of waiting for an invitation that ain't coming, together, why don't we just kick the damn door down?

Some of you reading this may be saying to yourself, "I don't want to be out front, or, I don't want everybody to know my business!" That's fine! However, don't we all have a "certain" responsibility to make the road easier for the next generation of would-be Black activists? After all, do we not come from a rich heritage of self-sacrifice? If our ancestors didn't want to be out front, or have people knowing their business, we would not have the civil rights we now enjoy, and sometimes take for granted.

In closing, please ask yourself, "Are YOU invisible?" If you are, what are you going to do about it? Politics may not be your battle, for it is extremely important that we internally strengthen our Black same-gender-loving community. However, what I am proposing, is that we be more mindful of the "whole" community, and together start creating another vehicle in which the "hip-hop" generation can vocally express their opinions in the local, state, and national Political arena!

The author Jimmie Scott, is a 31-year-old, openly-gay artist, writer, and political activist happily living and breathing here in Atlanta. He can be reached via email at Clikque Magazine.

we go deep



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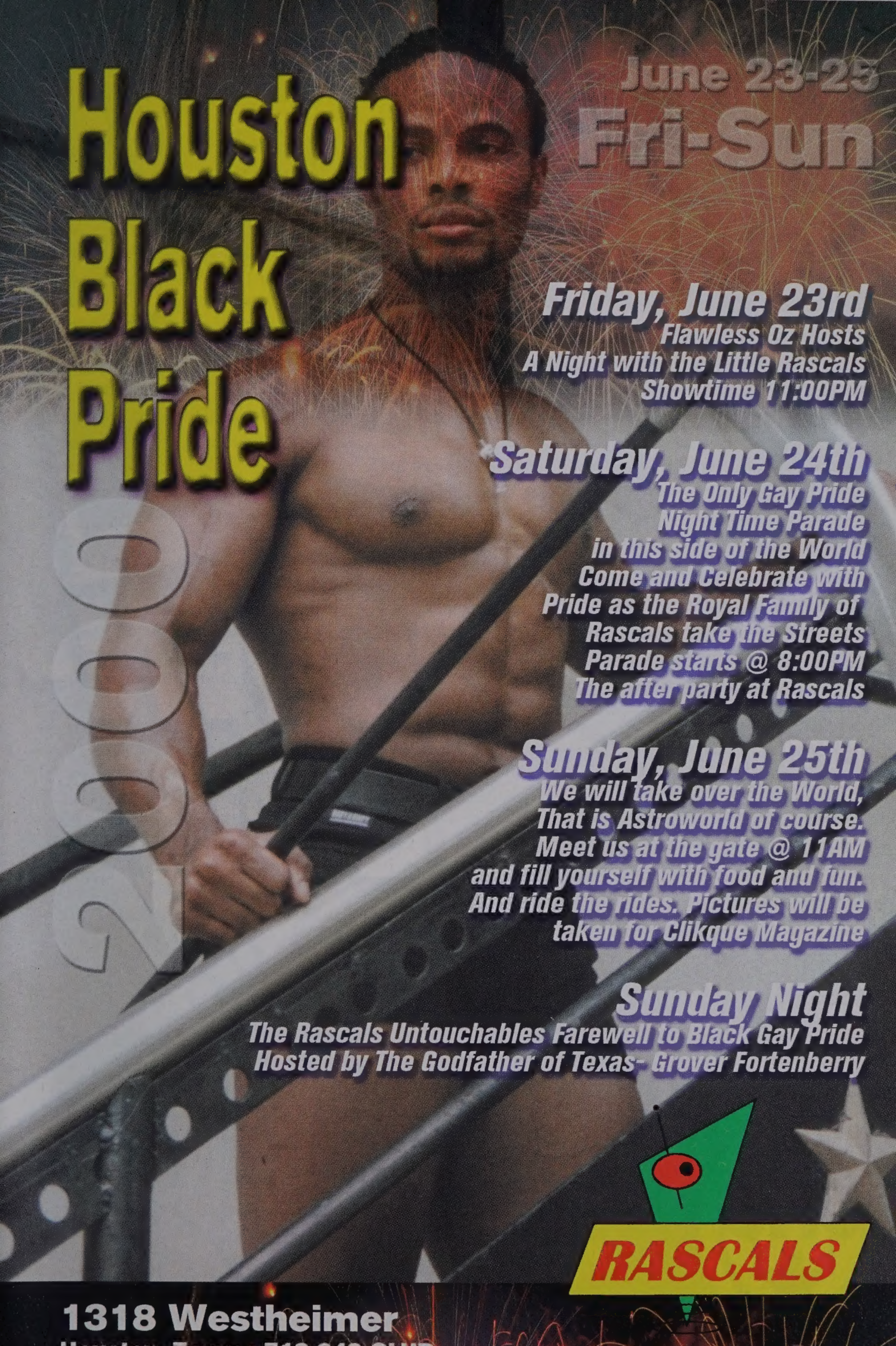

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June 23-25 Fri-Sun

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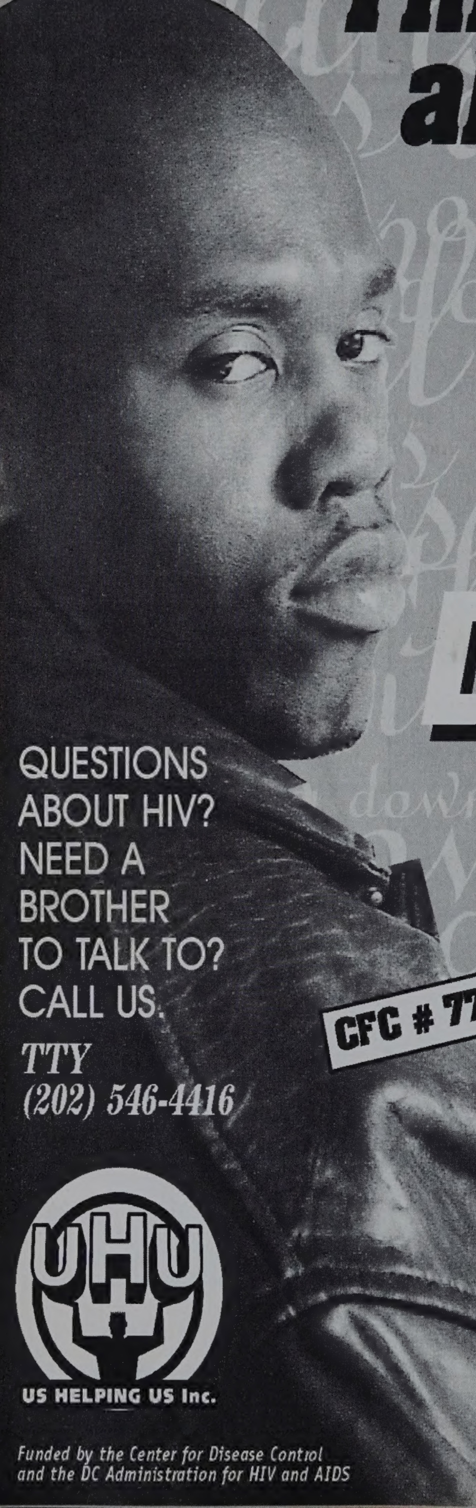

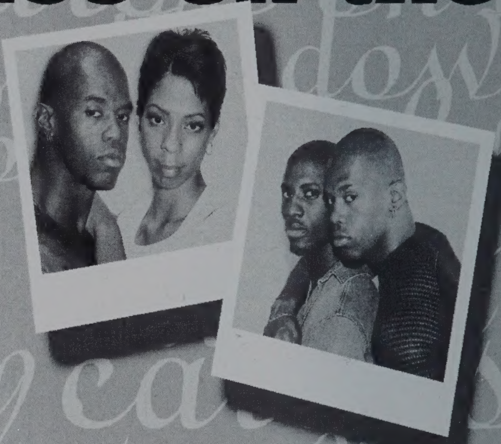

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Don't Sweat The Small Stuff

Become Aware of Your Moods and Don't Allow Yourself to Be Fooled by the Low Ones

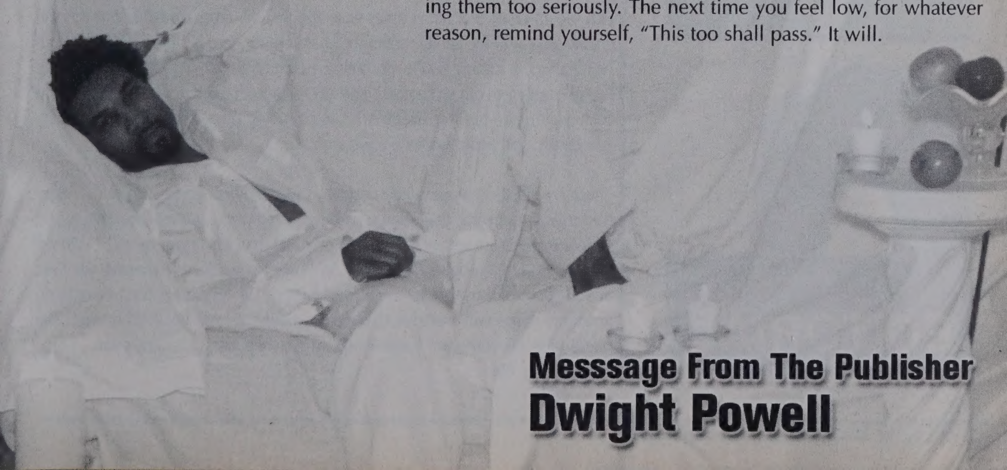
Your own moods can he extremely deceptive. They can, and probably do, trick you into believing your life is far worse than it really is. When you're in a good mood, life looks great. You have perspective, common sense, and wisdom. In good moods, things don't feel so hard, problems seem less formidable and easier to solve. When you're in a good mood, relationships seem to flow and communication is easy. If you are criticized, you take it in stride.

On the contrary, when you're in a bad mood, life looks unbearably serious and difficult. You have very little perspective. You take things personally and often misinterpret those around you, as you impute malignant motives into their actions.

Here's the catch: People don't realize their moods are always on the run. They think instead that their lives have suddenly become worse in the past day, or even the last hour. So, some one who is in a good mood in the morning might love his wife, his job, and his car. He is probably optimistic about his future and feels grateful about his past. But by late afternoon, if his mood is bad, he claims he hates his job, thinks of his wife as a nuisance, thinks his car is a junker, and believes he's going nowhere in his career. If you ask him about his childhood while he's in a low mood, he'll probably tell you it was extremely difficult. He will probably blame his parents for his current plight.

Such quick and drastic contrasts may seem absurd, even funny—but we're all like that. In low moods we lose our perspective and everything seems urgent. We completely forget that when we are in a good mood, everything seems so much better. We experience the identical circumstances—who we are married to, where we work, the car we drive, our potential, our childhood—entirely differently, depending on our mood! When we are low, rather than blaming our mood as would be appropriate, we instead tend to feel that our whole life is wrong. It's almost as if we actually believe that our lives have fallen apart in the past hour or two.

The truth is, life is almost never as bad as it seems when you're in a low mood. Rather than staying stuck in a bad temper, convinced you are seeing life realistically, you can learn to question your judgment. Remind yourself, "Of course I'm feeling defensive [or angry, frustrated, stressed, depressed]; I'm in a bad mood. I always feel negative when I'm low." When you're in an ill mood, learn to pass it off as simply that: an unavoidable human condition that quill pass with time, if you leave it alone. A low mood is not the time to analyze your life. To do so is emotional suicide. If you have a legitimate problem, it will still be there when your state of mind improves. The trick is to be grateful for our good moods and graceful in our low moods— not taking them too seriously. The next time you feel low, for whatever reason, remind yourself, "This too shall pass." It will.



Messsage From The Publisher
Dwight Powell

PRIDE

EDITORIAL

Pride-Power-Prejudice:

Influence in America

by: Darryl!

June has become known as Gay Pride Month throughout the country. As such we celebrate our unique diversities and contributions to the world, and specifically to this country. Over the past few decades we have seen an increase in publications and media/entertainment presentations that attempt to capture the GLBT/SGL influence in America. From the latest books exposing "the life" and personal disclosures or coming-out stories to the myriad of support groups and workshop series we are not lacking in options from which to "explore and find ourselves." However, it is at this season in the year, "The Pride Season," while we attend the circuit parties and pride events around the nation that we have the greatest opportunity to define ourselves and our image in the public debate.

What then is pride? Pride might be the freedom to experience ourselves in the fullness of our sexuality in any way we choose. Pride might be the opportunity to express our loves, likes, and desires in the most public of ways. Pride might be taking back the personal power that has been snatched away from us by people who fear what they do not know, will not understand, and cannot control. Pride might be the opportunity to address prejudice and challenge the foundations of hatred and disempowerment that fuels its existence in our society. Pride might be all these things or none of these things; it might even be more than these things. What we do know about pride is that it is personal. Pride can be powerful; pride can also be liberating.

It is not necessary, or possible, for me to decide for you what pride is or is not. You can decide what Pride is for and to you. We can determine whether we will have it and share it or if we will hide from the potential visibility that pride can bring. What is the difference with being in a club in the dark of the night, standing in the streets or parking lots, and walking down the street in a pride parade/march in the broad daylight? Exposure; and the amount of exposure that visibility brings. There are people who attempt to hide who they are from themselves, family, friends, and co-workers. These people have testified that they often feel isolated, confined, and ashamed. They fear the one thing that has no real power, exposure. Others who lived their lives this way have said that once they stepped into the light there were no long lasting repercussions and that their lives were less stressful.

Hey we all know that hate crimes exist and that the more exposure one has the greater potential for falling victim to a hate crime there is. But isn't the fear of being a victim forcing you to become a victim of fear anyway? Is the pain any less relevant from our self enforced prisons than from the hurt we anticipate from society? Are we hurting ourselves more by hiding than walking in the fullness, wholeness, and beauty of whom we are?

These are questions we should consider as we enjoy our pride season. After the festivals, concerts, drag shows, parties, conferences, forums, workshops, and vendor markets are we each willing to do more than say "I was there?" Will we carry our pride throughout the year? Will we get involved in making our lives and the lives of those yet to come "out" better? Of course we don't have to do anything; things will continue to happen whether we are involved or not. The question is do you want these things to just happen..............to you? Enjoy Pride. Enjoy life.

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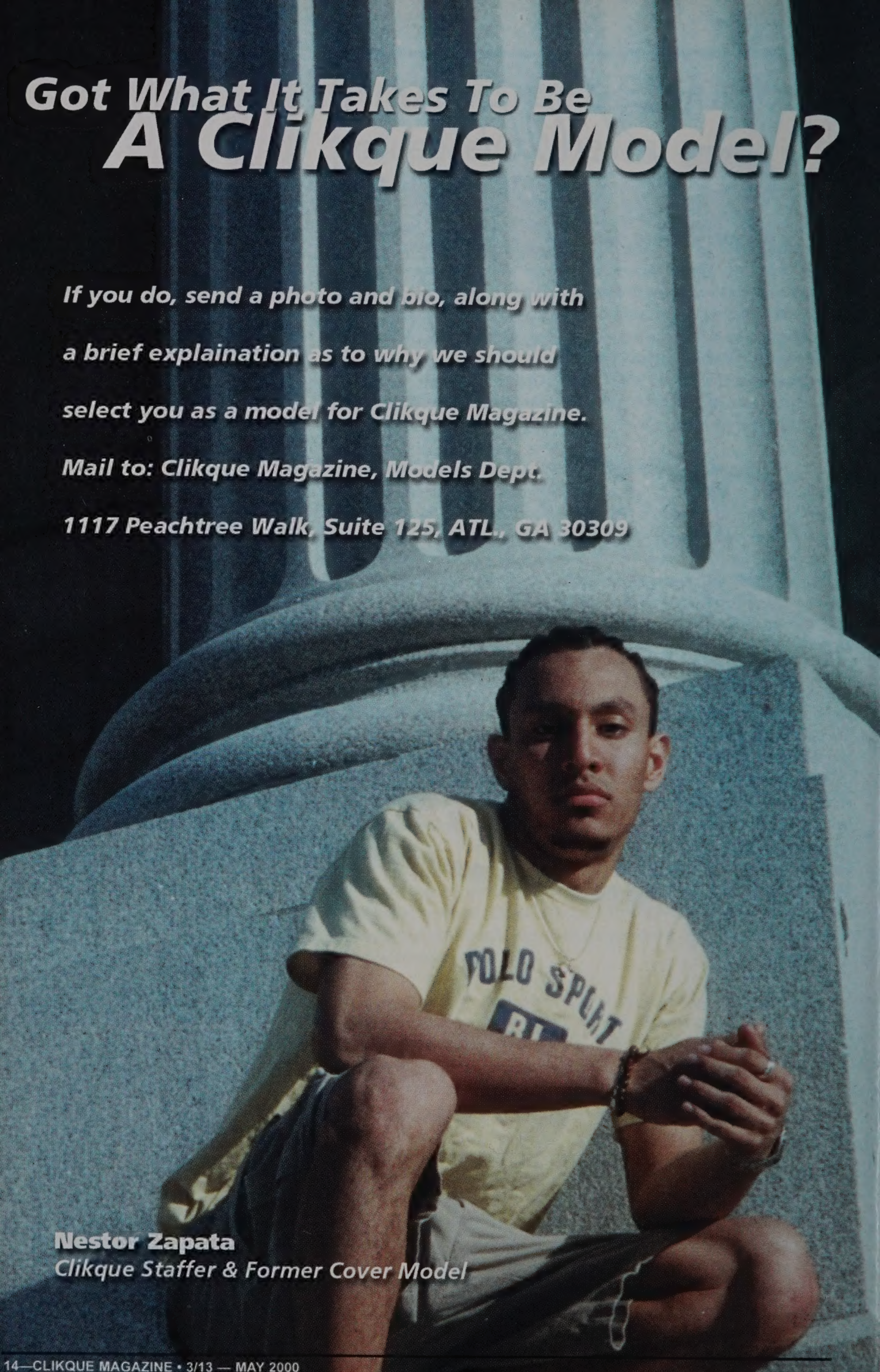
Concept, Design, Illustration & Marketing By: Dwight Powell Clikque Graphic 404-817-3898



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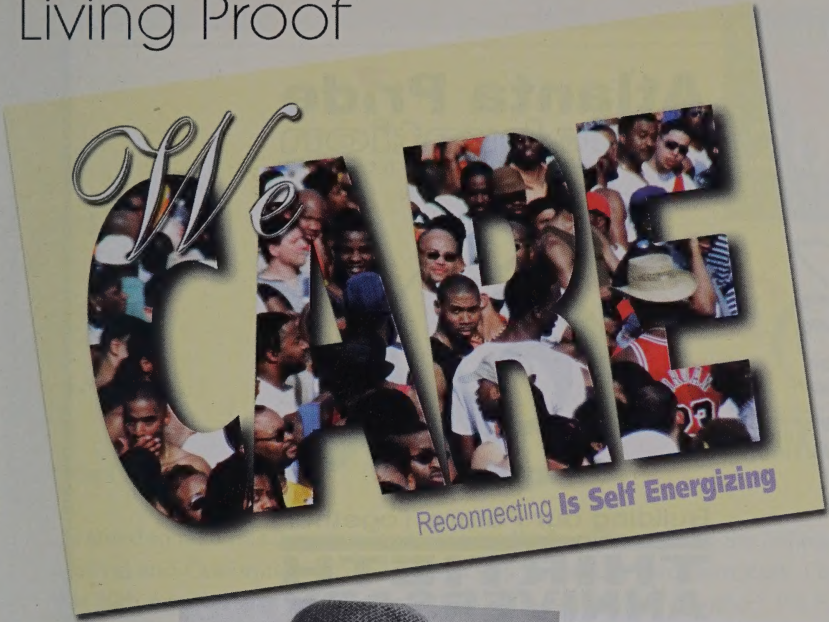

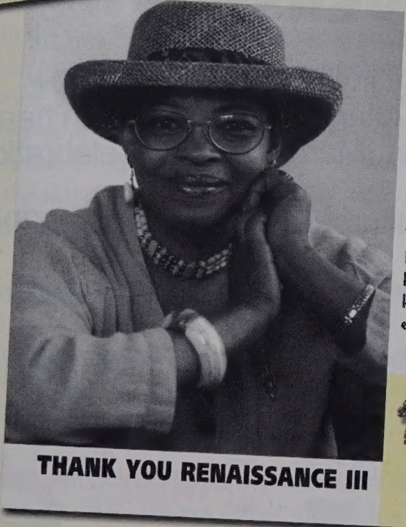

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June 2000

Dear Clikque Readers:

I wanted to take this opportunity to invite all of you to come to the Atlanta Pride Festival and Celebration June 23-25 that will be heid in Piedmont Park. Our theme for this 30th Anniversary Celebration is "Building our Future Together" We have come a long way in the last 30 years, and our community has really grown. The Pride Festival is an opportunity for us to celebrate our uniqueness among other like ourselves. During the Pride weekend you can remember and honor loved ones lost to the AIDS pandemic at the AIDS Vigil Friday evening, shop the festival market, bring your kids to the Childrens Kamp, enjoy the music from 2 stages, be uplifted by participating in the Interfaith service on Sunday, and then cheer and shout and dance and laugh and be OUT in the parade on Sunday.

Why come to June Pride? Because when all come together and are gathered in one place, and we number in the hundreds of thousands, that's powerful. We owe it to ourselves to participate in an event where we are free to be who we are and allow ourselves the opportunity to soak up all that wonderful energy, and love, and comfort we get from being with our kind.

I would like to thank Dwight Powell and the staff of Clikque Magazine for their support of the Atlanta Pride Festival through a Bronze level sponsorship. I'm looking forward to seeing Dwight, his staff, and th readers of Clikque at the festival.

Yours in Pride,

Donna Narducci

Donna Narducci
Executive Director
The Atlanta Pride Committee, Inc.

In Defense of Black Gay Pride

By Lee P. Jones

As the Spring thaw ends and summer heat sweeps across the U.S. it is Pride time again. The time to once again gather in Houston, Washington, D.C., New York, Detroit, Chicago, L.A., Atlanta, Dallas, Oakland and other cities for Black Gay Pride 2000. Many of us have attended one or several of these gatherings in the past, and some of us will to hit the circuit again this year. But lately there has been a ripple of criticism by some who think that Black Gay Prides serve as nothing more than an opportunity to gather and cruise for sex partners. It is as if the Love Ins of the 1960's meets Paul Johnson's "Get, Get Down" in 2000. To them the Prides are nothing more than an orgy fest with house music (or hip hop) serving as mood music. At a certain level, the detractors are correct in their analysis of some of the activities that go on at these various Prides. But they ignore many of the positive aspects of the Prides that keep people like me coming.

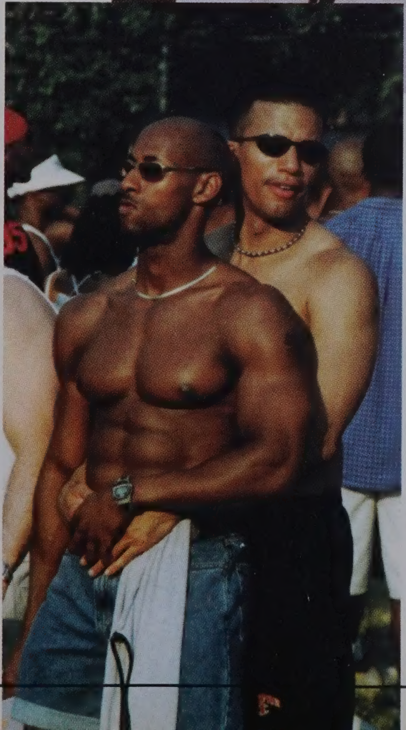
I was raised in a very conservative southeastern, Bible-belt city that frowns deeply on gays (and black empowerment in general). This indifference to gays is probably no different than any other city's disdain. But my city has the backing of such persuasive institutions as the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, the Presbyterian Church USA, and a few other powerful organizations. I too am a part of the religious establishment. My father is the pastor of one of the oldest Pentecostal churches in the city. Needless to say I had a very strict upbringing. Of course, I carried a lot of religious guilt over my sexuality. I struggled with my attraction to other men for a long time. I got into prayer line after prayer line and begged God to take this so-called demon out of me. That never worked.

By my late teens and early 20's I had some brief encounters with other African American gays, yet I didn't think that there was a very large community of black gays anywhere. I thought that most gays were flaming, white men. And many of the black same gender loving men that I saw were queens or very effeminate. (This was before I figured out how to use my "gaydar" to 'clock' the straight-acting brothers). To me, most same gender loving males were very effeminate, which at that point in my life was a big turn off. I was not a queen or effeminate so I felt like an anomaly.

I carried my confusion well into my college days. I even joined some of my friends in haggling openly gay students on campus. However, by time that I got ready to head off to graduate school I began to deal with some of the confusion and guilt over my sexuality. But I still held on to the notion that gay men are mostly queens or effeminate - despite the fact that I myself was a contradiction of that idea.

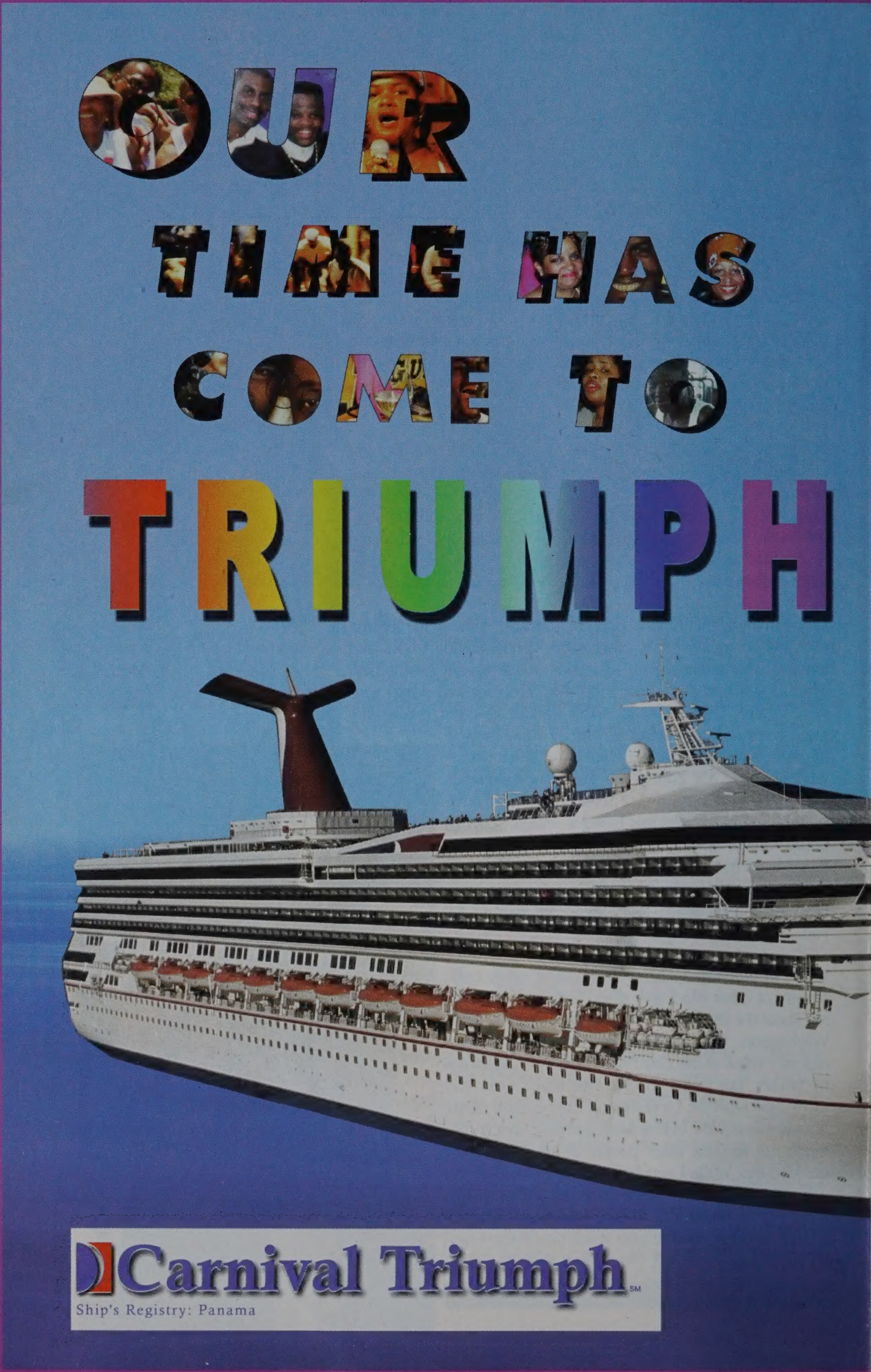
When I entered graduate school I moved to a small, but very liberal city about 3,000 west of my hometown. Living in this Pacific Northwest city allowed me to live in a city where being a same gender-loving person was not as big a deal as it was back at home. This is not to say that gays were living in a utopia. But compared to the bias against gays in my hometown, it certainly is a more open community.

Living in a city that is more open helped ease some of the tension over my sexuality. I met other same gender loving males and females who unknowingly served as a role model for me. But again, I still had this assumption that most out and proud gays were white. Despite living in this liberal, semi-progressive city there were only a handful of African Americans in the area, and I knew of only one other black person who was gay. Of course, he was very effeminate (which by that time didn't really bother me anymore). I really thought that being a straight looking, proud African American gay man was a novelty. But then I went back home for the summer to take a job at my alma mater, which afforded me the opportunity to travel a bit before returning to the West in the Fall.



While in graduate school I cultivated a cyber community of other black gay men. They would e-mail me about the Black Gay Pride events in such cities as Washington, D.C., Atlanta, Los Angeles and other places. I knew of the Gay Prides that were organized by whites, but I had no clue that Black Gays had there own festivals. I would read their e-mails about how wonderful the events were and how they had so much fun meeting other people at the Prides. So I decided that while I was back home I would attend one of these Prides to see if what my online friends were writing about was "live or Memorex". I decided to attend the 1996 Atlanta Black Gay Pride. I didn't know what to expect. I had never been to a black gay club or any black

Black Gay Pride Continues On Page 42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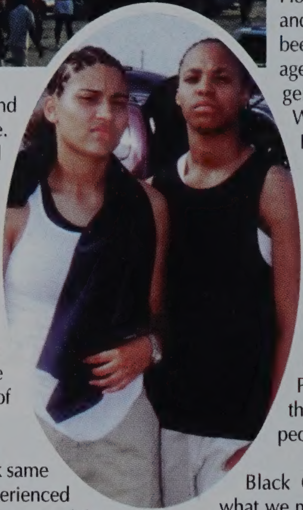
gay event for that matter. I had just found the nerve back in December of 1995 to even go into a gay club for the first time.

Needless to say, I was astounded at the number of black same gender loving people that descended on Atlanta that weekend! I had no clue that there were so many black gays. I couldn't believe that there were so many other brothers that are just like me. But they were out and proud of whom they were. I was amazed at the variety of black same gender loving brothers. They ranged from queens to rugged, thuggish; from short and thin to tall and thick; from beige skin tones to deep dark chocolate. The professional, the blue collared, the degreed and pedigreed were together in Atlanta to take Pride in who they are. I reveled in being in an atmosphere where it was okay to be black and gay. I met many other beautiful brothers from around the nation that busted my stereotype of a black gay man. I even met some brothers and sisters who were in the church as I am and who helped me realize that you can be a Christian and same gender loving. For the first time, I felt that it was okay to be a black same gender loving male. I did not have to be ashamed of who I was or feel like a novelty.

Splash 2000



That weekend did more for my conscience as a black same gender loving man than anything that I have ever experienced before or since. That 1996 Atlanta Pride freed me forever of the guilt and shame of being black and gay. I was so lifted by my experience that I decided to stop trying to hide my sexuality from others. I didn't care who knew I was gay from that point on. Although I had recently came out to some close friends, I still wanted to keep my sexuality a secret. I went to great lengths to see to it that my sexuality was ambiguous. But after my experience at the Pride I saw that there is a whole community of brothers and sisters who are carving out some free space for themselves in the black community. I had begun the process of loving myself, but I was not sure that this was the proper thing to do because of the religious guilt I had been subjected to all my life. I shudder to think how emotionally and psychologically damaged I would be had I not attend that 1996 Atlanta Pride. Since then I have attended nearly all the Black Gay Prides at least once.

I understand that many people have a very dim view of the Black Gay Prides. Some even take issue with the name and think that it should be changed to Black Same Gender Loving Pride or something along those lines. Some just think it is a chance for black "punks and sissies" to get together to party, spend money, and "screw" each other. There may be some truth to this; I do not want to paint the various Black Gay Prides as a utopia of brotherhood and sisterhood where everyone is open, honest and respects one another. I do want to convey that Prides are a necessary part of our community that we need to continue and we need to support them.

How many other brothers and sisters like myself have been uplifted and encouraged by these Black same gender loving gatherings? What about the people that I have met at the Prides who are now some of my best friends? I have met people that I would have never met had I not attended a Black Gay Pride. For all the counter productive recklessness that detractors claim the Black Gay Prides have become, I think that they benefit more people than they damage.

Black Gay Prides can only be what we make them. Initially, I reveled in the party and highly sexual nature of the Prides. In other words, I have enjoyed some memorable parties at the clubs and I have had some steamy sexual encounters. But I have grown since 1996, and now I look forward to the more productive activities that are scheduled at nearly all the Prides. Most of the Prides not only schedule parties and other social activities, they also fit in some powerful workshops that are either free or available at a nominal cost. The information and fellowship garnered at these mini-conferences are powerful and, in

DC Pride 1999

some instances, is the best part of the Pride events. But the sad fact is that most attendees of the Prides do not go to the workshops. That says more about the attendees than it does the Pride event itself. I wonder how many of those who fire bullets of criticism at the Black Gay Prides have ever attended a workshop or a session themselves when they did (or still do) go to the Prides. All the organizers can do is make the mini-conference available. It is up to us - those of us who attend these Prides with a higher goal than finding sex partners or potential lovers - to support these workshops.

It would be a damnable lie if I said that there were no problems with the Black Gay Prides. I do have some concerns about why some brothers and sisters attend these gatherings. But rather than criticize them and berate the organizers and the attendees, I choose to criticize and attend and make the Pride what I want it to be for me. I can't really worry about what other folks do, but I can certainly govern what I do at these events. When I go to the Black Gay Prides I am not looking for "a few good men" to get my groove on with. I go to learn, share, fellowship and meet other African American same gender loving men and women. Although I certainly enjoy looking at the many flavors, shapes and shades of our "phyne" black men, I don't go to these Prides looking for sex or love.

I suspect that a goodly number of critics of the Black Prides have been burned at one or more of these Prides. They may have mistaken a night or two of passionate sex for a potential lover. Or simply put, they met a player who ran a game on them and they are bitter. But then again, perhaps the critics are voicing concerns that are not rooted in personal bitterness. But nothing goes on at a Black Gay pride that does not go on in any other city where gays meet or congregate. It is just magnified because there are more people in a particular location. Yet it is still important to constructively criticize the Black Gay Prides while working to improve them rather than standing on the sidelines sounding off about a problem while not being part of the solution.

African American Gay Prides can only be what we make them. One can have ball without having sex at these gatherings. This is not an indictment against sex. Consenting adults have that right. But I don't get involved in the games or "the hunt" for new sex partners because Black Gay Pride really is more than a hormone festival. Pride is a sex fest only if you want it to be. To me, Prides reinforce who I am. Living in a community that abhors gays I need the Prides to remind me that although I live in modest city I am not alone. I am not a mistake or an "abomination." Prides motivate me to work to create for my community and myself some free space in a society that says I don't deserve such freedom. At least at the various Black Gay Prides we experience a sample of that free space to be open and out, even if only for a weekend. For those of us who reside in cities and towns that are not as cosmopolitan as D.C., New York City, Atlanta, Houston, Dallas, Chicago and L.A., this is our chance to be as open and free as we want in an atmosphere that is relatively safe and very supporting. Prides are more than a sex fests. They can be a love-fest if we want them to be.

The Review

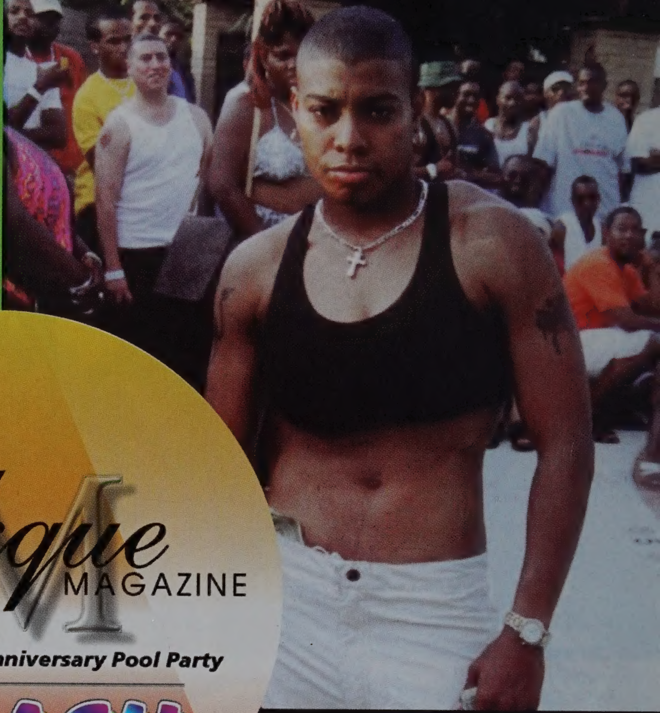
Clikque recently joined in the Splash 2000 festivities by hosting its annual Anniversary Pool Party at Clikque's host hotel Sheraton-Brookhollow. While the crowd laughed at the antics of Sophia McIntosh who was joined by Clikque staff and Ms. Clikque America 2000, Teryl-Lynn Foxx. As promised Clikque offered it's guests a great smattering of fun, food, and the fabulous as men and women struck up conversations and made connections.

Clikque Magazine

Clikque Magazine Anniversary Pool Party

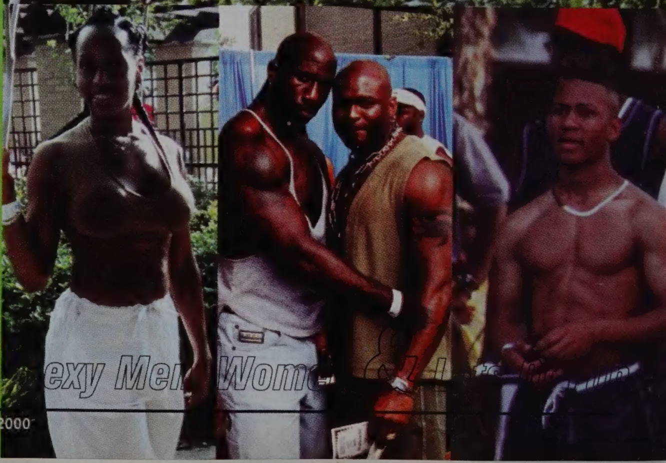
SPLASH

MAY 4-7TH • 2000
HOUSTON, TX



Clikque gave away nearly $2000.00 in cash and prizes and even found this month's cover model wandering around the pool. Former Clikque cover model and calendar model, Flex, won the body contest beating out all the men and other women brandishing their bodies for the world to see.

Clikque Magazine would like to thank those who joined us for this weekend and we hope that you enjoyed, not only our anniversary pool party, but the other offerings that Houston offered. We are excited about the plans already underway for 2001. Join us. And if you think that was a great time join us this month as we present Tampa Jamz, the never ending party weekend on the Central-Florida coast.



NAVY
IRISH

SPLASH

The Review

Thousands of bodacious bodies and buoyant babes flocked to Splash 2000 as the annual beach party, turned city party, turned circuit party swooned to the beat and heat that is classic Houston. If the saying goes that Texas does things bigger and better then they surely lived up to that by giving the crowd all the possible opportunities to keep time, rhythm, and "relations."

The producers of Splash 2000 opened up Incognito into a multi-plex of music, masquerade, and fun which also included the massive expanse called The Hanger. Outside the clubs were reminiscent of classic Atlanta outside of Loretta's where people partied to the sounds escaping from the clubs or the small throngs in patches along the streets. Those damned Rascals offered the fantastic expose of music and mayhem sponsored by the God-father of Houston, Grover Fortenberry, at Rascals the club. And the promoters of Unity Pride 2000 offered a look into the future of pride with their special events throughout the weekend, with a little help from our Clikque Fierce columnist, Remmington Ross.

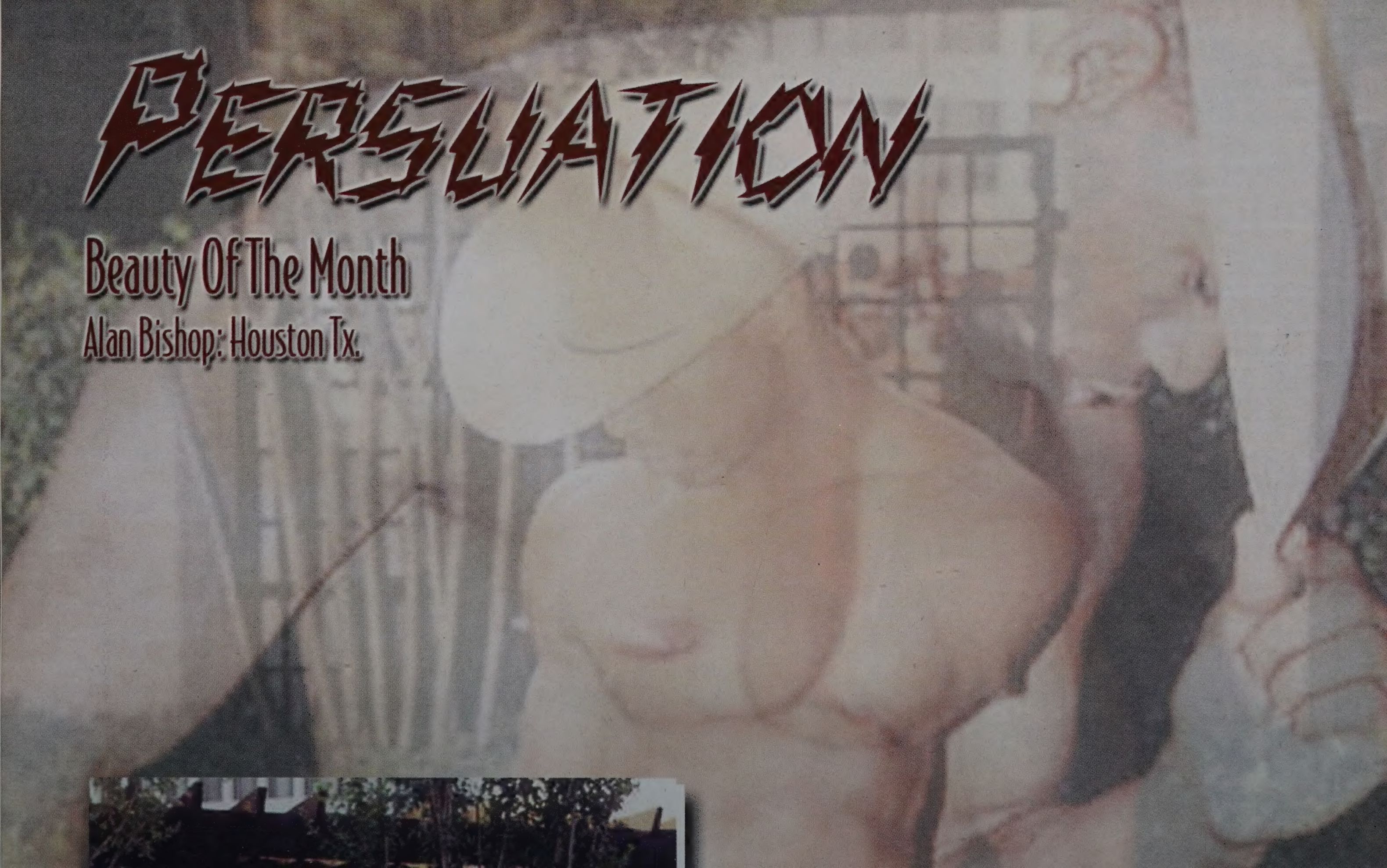
If you missed Houston for Splash this year, start making plans now for 2001. You are bound to meet or see whatever you're looking for from studs, beauties, bodies, trade, bunnies, honies, face, thongs, candy, sweeties, stylin' & profilin', professionals, impersonators, changelings, flame throwers, newbees, and so on and so on and so on.

Women & More Women

PERSUATION

Beauty Of The Month

Alan Bishop: Houston Tx.



Clikque MAGAZINE

June 2000

This month is dedicated to colors!

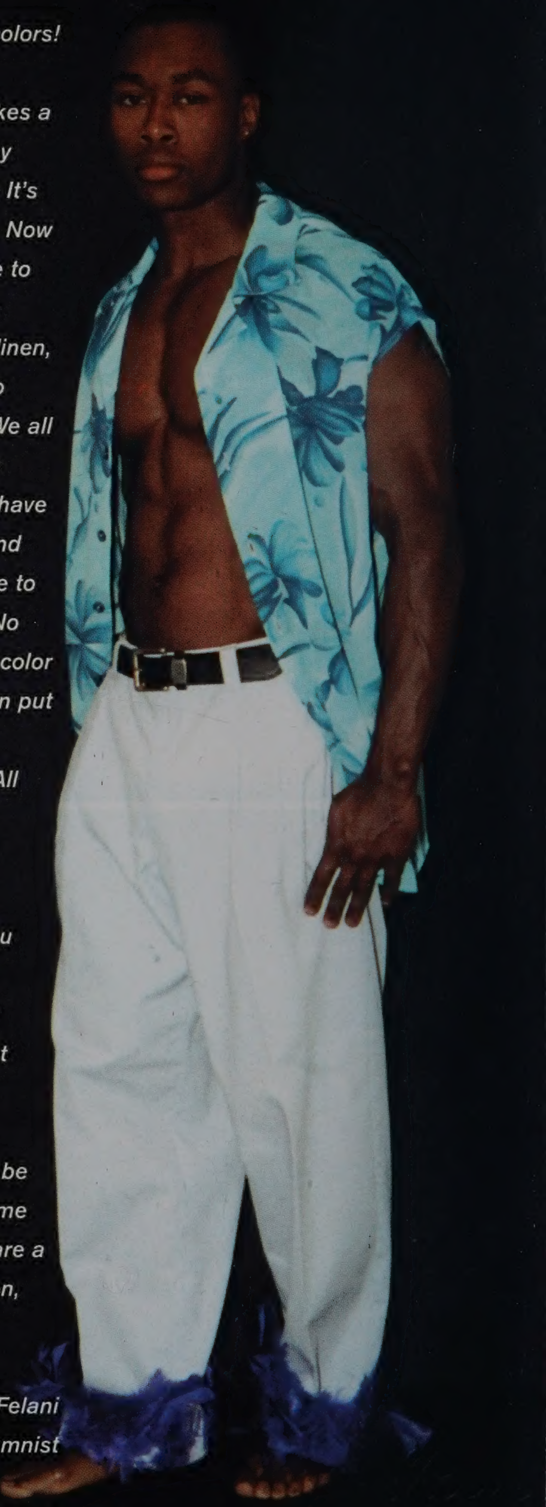
Wearing the right colors makes a statement. And if there is any month to make a statement, It's definitely in month of June. Now that summer's here, It's time to dress lite and cute, by using different textures of cotton, linen, silk, and lite weight denim to collaborate the right outfit. We all know that fashion Is one big circle and we also know we have seen fashion trends come and go. But one thing that's sure to stay are bright, rich colors. No matter what year or theme, color will always be there. You can put an outfit together, but if the colors don't fit you. " It Will All Go Crazy"

By taking your time, and choosing the right colors, you don't have to worry about anything, because the outfit will make a strong statement by itself.

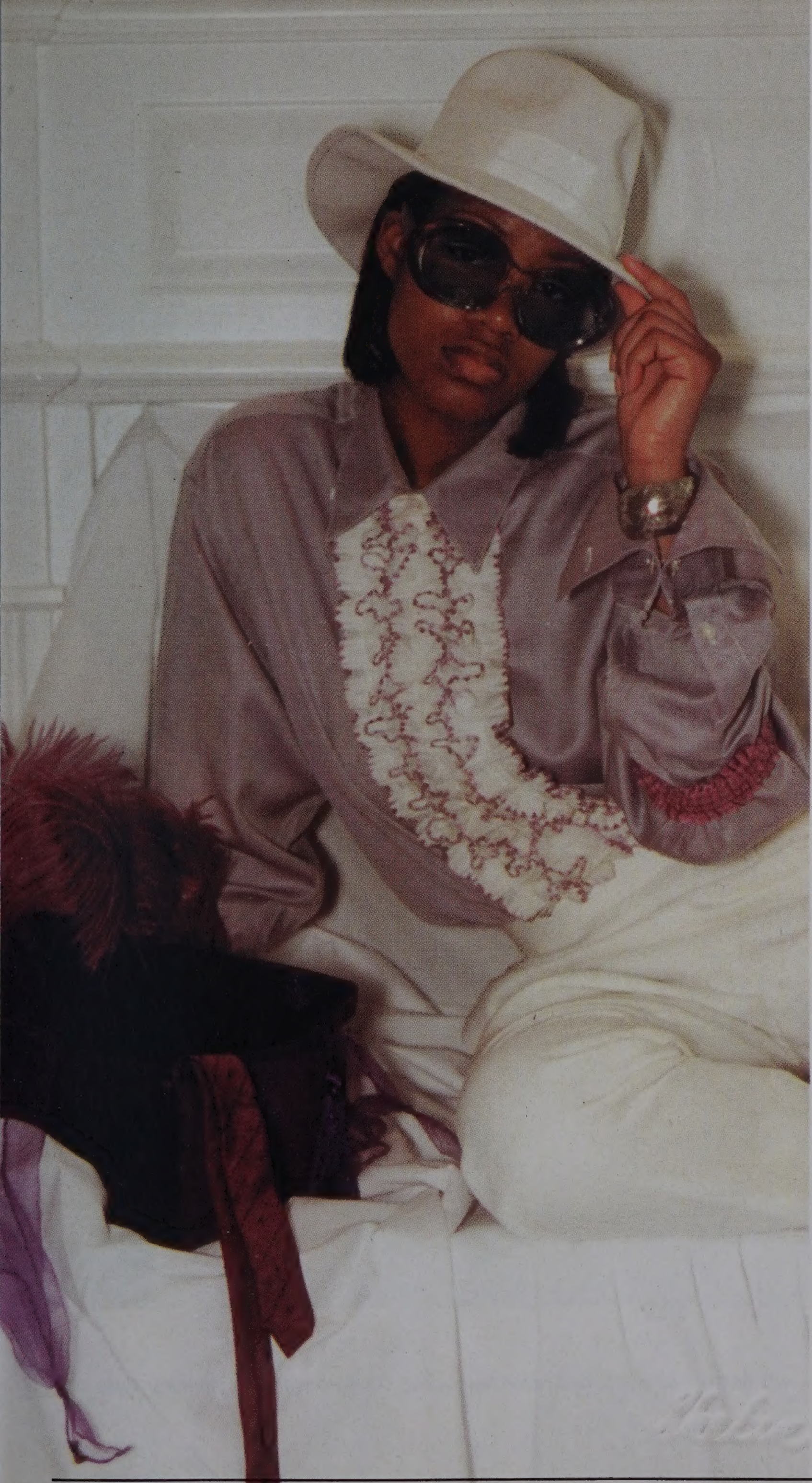
This is the summer of 2000, be adventurous and daring. Come up with a new style. Colors are a very important part of fashion, and It will always be.

– Justice Felani
Fashion Columnist

Photos By Lee Ross

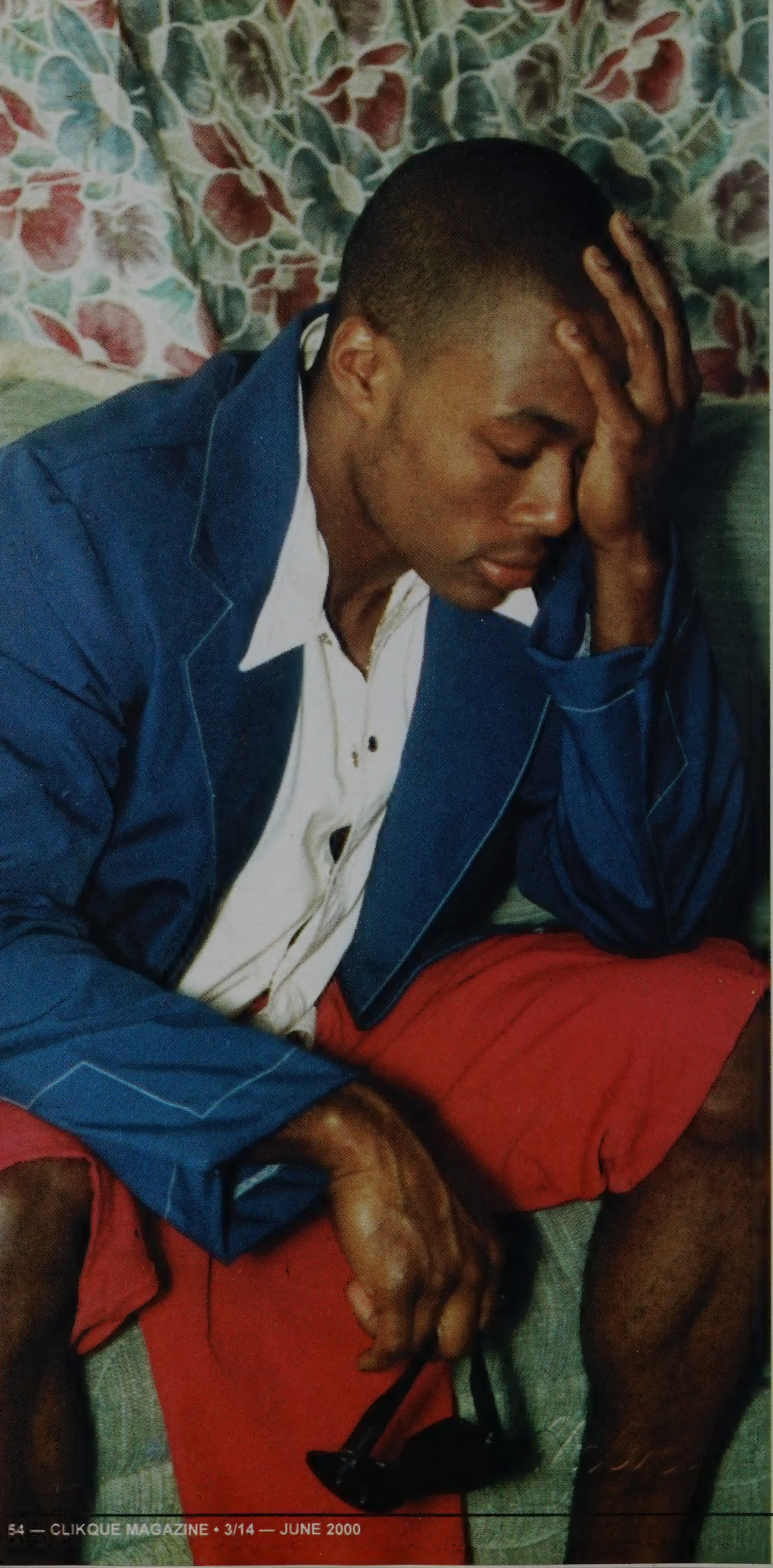


light weight denim reverse blazer with powder blue cotton pants accesorized with feathers

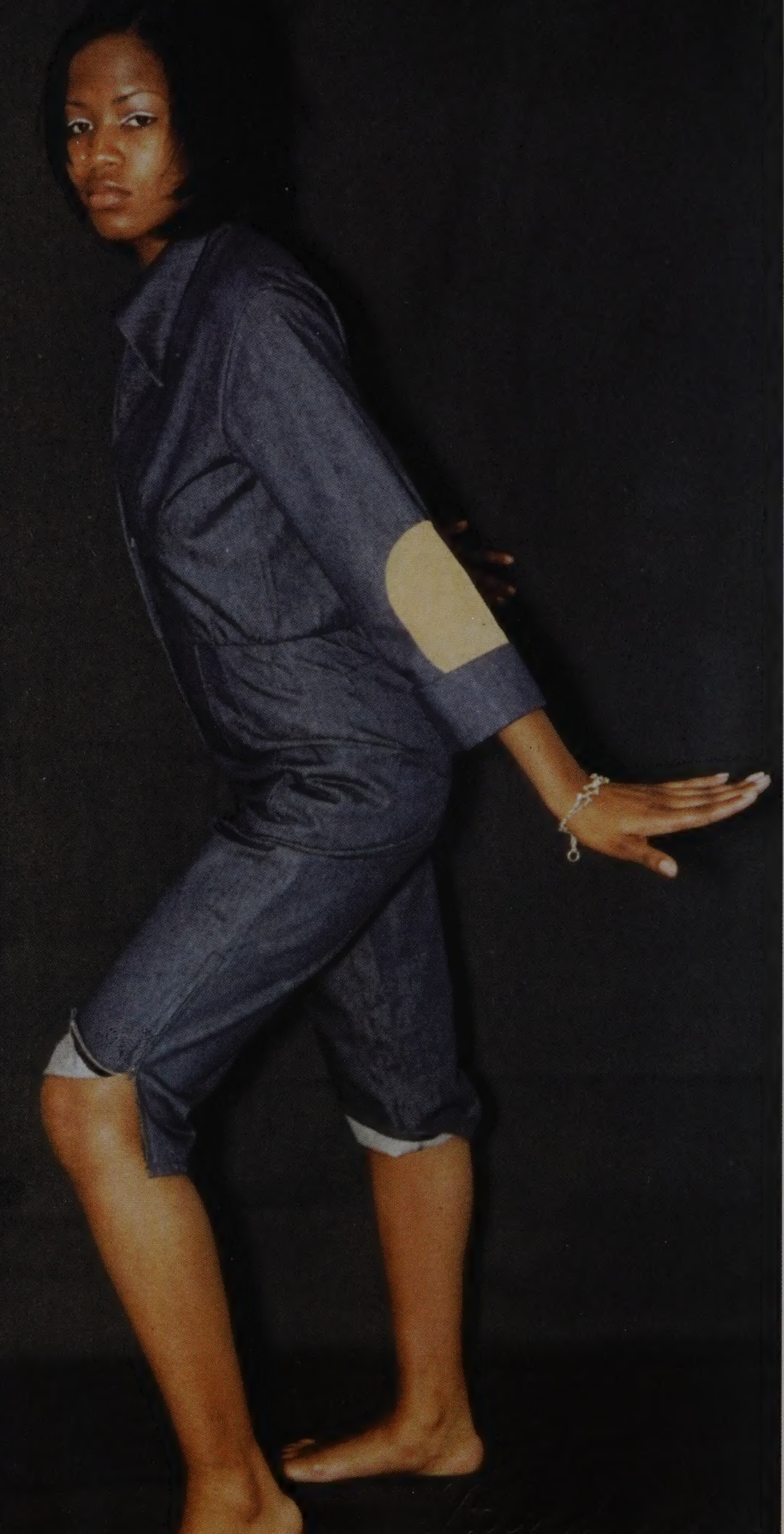


purple and white cotton ruffeled shirt with white linen capri pants, and to make the look stunning one untouchable hat.

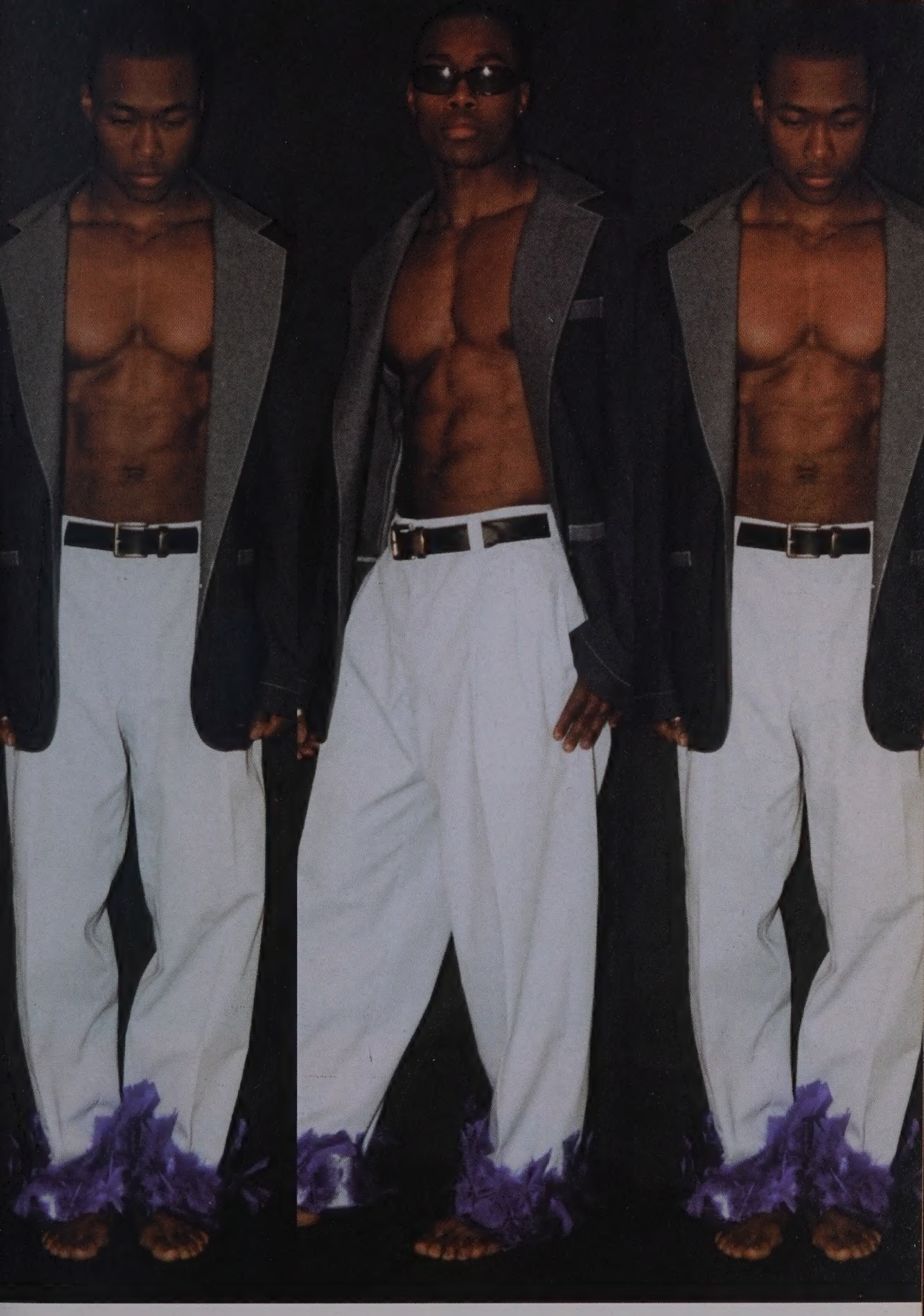
green linen blazer with white linen pants and rayon lime green silk shirt with one stunning ziggy print



royal blue cotton blazer trimmed in white stitching with a body fitting whit short sleeve shirt , and to compliment a pair of fusha pink capri pants for men.



one piece capri denium jumper with suede elbow pads.



light weight denim reverse blazer with powder blue cotton pants accesorized with feathers

Shows Featuring

Tommie Ross

Niesha Dupree

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Male

Dancers

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PRI

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Ranch Round-up

Sunday June 18th

Te-To-Tam-Ranch 9am-10pm
Volleyball, Horseback Riding
Fishning, Flag Football
And Much More!

DE

-18, 2000

TN

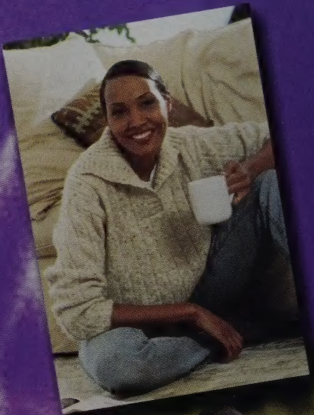
Thursday: Kick-off
w/special guest male dancers
Friday: Dance Party/Show
Legends of Illusion Show @10PM
Saturday: Pool Party
Clikque Magazine Pool Party
@ Laquinta Midtown @ 3PM
Saturday: Dance Party/Show
Sunday: Ranch Round-up
Sunday: Climax Dance/Show

Miracle of Love

Orlando, Fl.

"Me"

*I am the only **"Me"** I've got. I am unique. There are two major parts of me. There's the inside Me and the outside **"Me"**. The out side me is what you see; the way I act, the image I portray, the way I look and the things I do. The outside **"Me"** is every important. It is my messenger to the world and much of my outside **"Me"** is what communicated with you. I value what I have done, the way I look and what I share with you. The inside **"Me"** knows all my hope and dreams. Sometime I let you know a little about the inside **"Me"** and sometimes it's a very private part of myself. Even though there is enormous number of people in this world, no one is exactly like "Me". I take full responsibility for **"Me"** and the more I find out that I am an O.K. person. I've done some good things in my life because I am a good person. I've accomplished something in my life because I am competent person. I know some special people because I am worth knowing. I celebrate the many things I have done for myself. I've also made some mistakes I can learn from. I have known people who did not appreciate **"Me"**, I do not need to keep those people in my life. I've wasted some precious time. As long as I can see, hear, feel, think, change, grow and behave, I have great possibility. I'm going to take those risks and those possibilities, and I'm going to grow and love and be and **CELEBRATE; I'M WORTH IT.***



Miracle of Love, As the oldest minority AIDS service organization in Orange County, Miracle of Love, Inc. has built a tradition spanning over 8 years of providing a viable source of information, support, community advocacy, and referral services. Founded in 1993, MOLs mission is to provide services, prevention education, information, referrals, advocacy, and medical care to persons of color in the Orlando - Area 7 EMA.

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- *Community Outreach*
- *Support Group*
- *HIV Testing Program*
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- *Spiritual Program*
- *Support Group for Gay Men of Color*
- *Ryan White Case Management*

Miracle of Love, Inc.
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Orlando, FL. 32811
407/ 650-3836 407/ 650-0154 (Fax)
E-Mail LSTAFFO1@bellsouth .net
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9:00am to 9:00pm
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$12 ALL NIGHT

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DJ MAGIC

DJ Steve "Miggedy" Maestro

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DJ KARIZMA

vs.

DJ CAMERON

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KINGS OF KINGS

Club XL

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$10.00

DJ Unknown

vs.

DJ Steve Maestro

Sunday 2nd

@

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9PM to 4AM

DJ Steve "Miggedy" Maestro (HIP-HOP)

DJ Sedrick

(THE DISTRICT HOUSE MOTHER)

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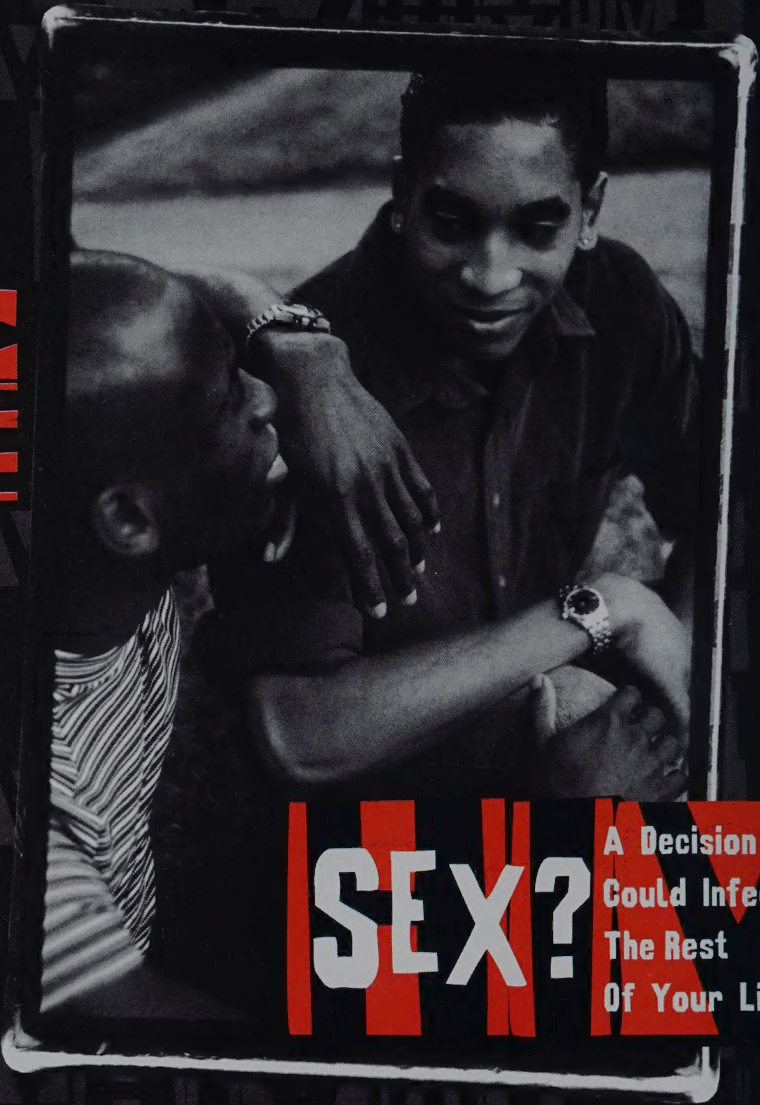
HIV
SEX?
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The Rest
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Houston Department of
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City of Houston
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Hot Nights In The City
Photo: Tim Wilkerson

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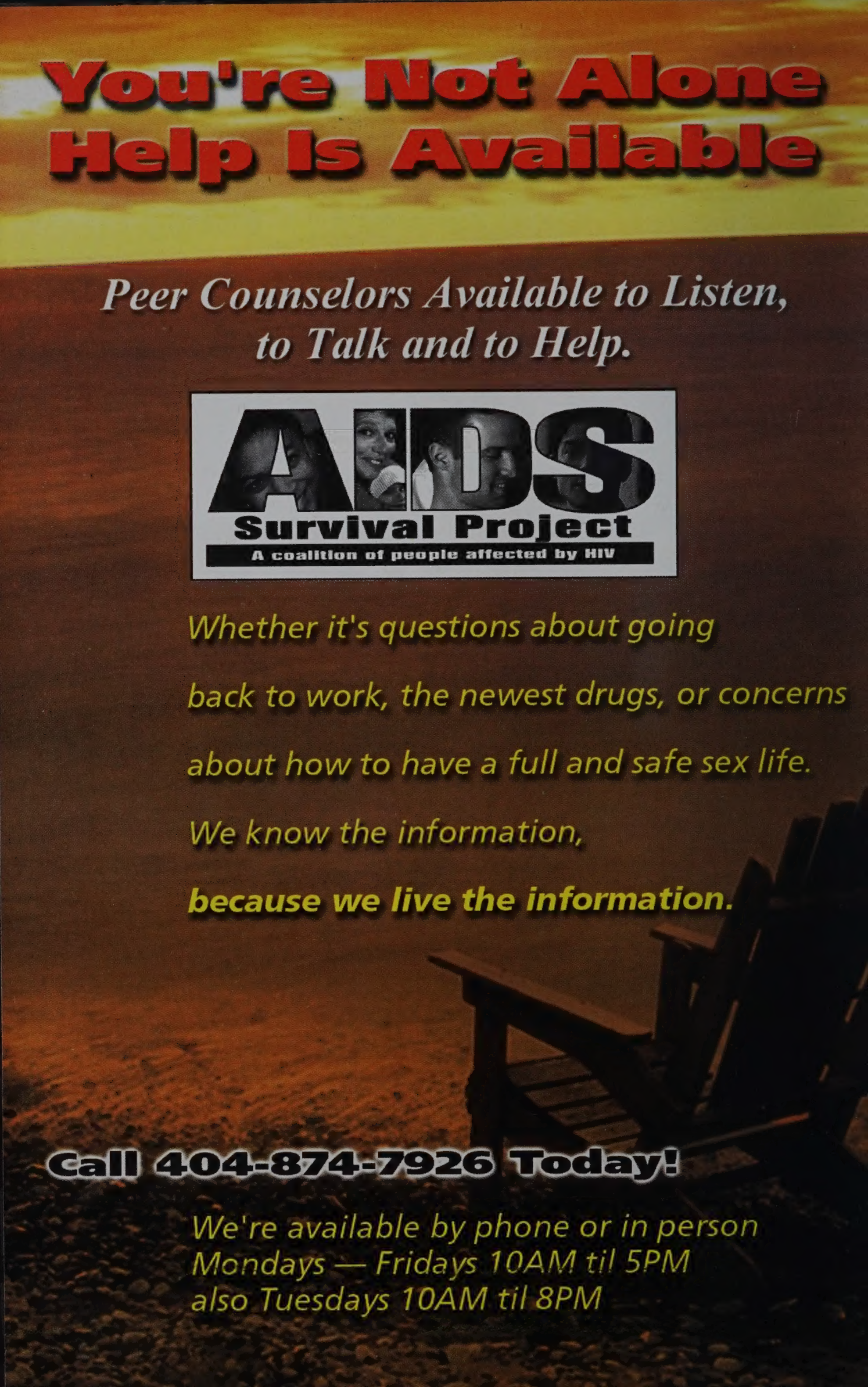

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Mr. & Miss

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Pageant

Female Categories: Creative Presentation, Evening Gown, Talent, Interview

MALE Categories: Sportswear (Example: swiming trunk, boxers, golf attire, ext.), Formal wear, Talent, Interview

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Door655

Welcome all PRIDE goers. Hope you are having fun, being safe, and loving each other. Here is yet another hot issue of Door 655. If you missed last month, or forgot what happened, here is a brief recap. The moment that we had all been waiting for: William and Craig kissed! Yep, they sure did. It was HOT! Silas, AKA Red, runs into an old friend as he walks home in the rain after being kicked out of Craig's car. You found out that this friend is none other than the scandalous Uncle Wes. Yet, Silas turns down his advances. He goes home alone, with Craig on his mind. The story opens here.

Silas went in and sat on his couch. All that he could think of was Craig. He would have never known if he hadn't told him. Why did he think that being honest was going to make everything all right? Was Craig supposed to pull him into his arms and say that he was sorry that he was sick and tell him how much he loved him? Silas knew the answer to that as soon as he thought it. He just thought that this one time would be different. But it wasn't. He was alone, again. He lit an incense and pressed play on his CD system. In seconds, Deangelo was echoing through his loft apartment. He took a deep breath, closed his eyes, and once again sank deep into his couch.

******

Catching his breath, Craig looked into William's face. The tension was still there and his eyes were tightly closed. His chest heaved in and out as he too tried to catch his breath. He had just kissed another man. A real kiss! Slowly, his eyes opened to see an awe struck Craig. Yet, he didn't move. He wouldn't. His grasp on Craig loosened, but his arms remained around Craig's body.

"Damn!" Craig said softly, still attempting to catch his breath. William's tongue had just explored his mouth. And now they sat their looking into each other's eyes. William began to speak, but Craig put his fingers against his lips and said, "Shhhh!, don't say anything."

He then reached around William and slowly laid him back on the bed. And there they laid, in each other's arms.

******

Silas, AKA 'Red", was raised in small town USA. He was the epitome of innocence. He was raised as a Jehovah's Witness. So he had heard all of the jokes about his friends running and hiding behind furniture whenever he and his 'cult' members came to knock on their doors. But Silas was a strong one. He had learned at an early age that he needed a tough skin to survive in this world, especially being an outsider because of his religion. He never thought that seven letters would grab him by the throat and cause so much pain. H. I. V. were the first three visitors that entered his life only to open the door for the other four. Shortly thereafter, A. I. D. S. walked in, pushed him into a dark corner, and beat the shit out of him. But once the battle was over, they all became good friends. He let go of the depression, saw his doctors, took his medicine, and maintained his physical activities. Just like all of his friends before him, he just knew that it would never happen to him. So what, he slipped a couple of times. Maybe he would where a condom, maybe not. Just stick it in a couple of times and pull out before he ejaculated. It would be OK. It took just one "maybe not" incident to change his life forever. And this is the life he had to endure.

Out of all the nights, he couldn't believe he would run into Tony on this night. Yet, it made it so much easier for him to turn him down. He had met Tony at one of the monthly parties that he was so famous for. They exchanged numbers and hooked up a couple of times, but he just wasn't felling him at all tonight. The music echoed through his entire apartment as he forgot about Wes and thought of Craig's sexy smile, the taste of his tongue and the way their bodies melted into each other in the rain. Then, he thought about Craig's face when he told him to get out of his car.

"Fuck this shit!! Fuck this mother fuckin' shit!" he said to himself as he got up to fix himself a drink. "Fuck this honesty shit!! Hell, fuck it!"

Door 655 Continues On Page 71

****

William heart raced as he laid there beside Craig. It was all good at first, but slowly hid stomach began to turn. His mind started to spin. He started to shake.

"What the fuck am I doing?!!" he barked as he jumped up from Craig's embrace. "This shit ain't right!" He began to pace back and forth as Craig sat on the edge of the bed, now up, alert, and staring at William in amazement. He felt it best if he just sat there in silence. So he did.

"I fuckin' kissed you, man.!! I kissed you back, Craig. I don't believe it!"

"Did you like it?" Craig asked quietly.

"I ....I...don't know. I just don't know." Yet, he knew. He knew alright. It felt as natural as hugging him. But, he would not let Craig know that. Craig knew he had more important issues to deal with, so he decided not to press the issue.

"Hey, you want me to leave?" he asked. William couldn't even look him in the eye. With his back turned, he responded, " I just can't deal with this right now."

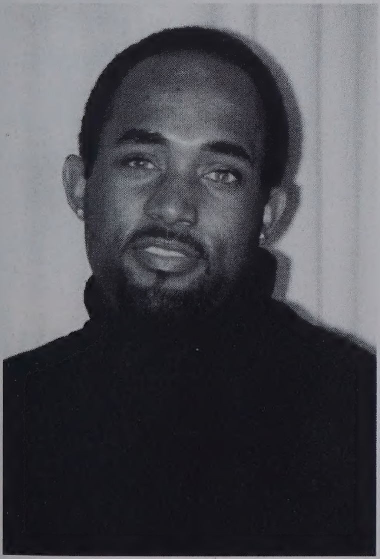
"Well, aite, man," said Craig. He wasn't upset. He understood. Besides, he knew that if William would kiss him, he would eventually do more. He put on his shoes as William stood silently in a far corner of the room.

"I'll return your clothes later."

"Don't worry about it man." In seconds, William's door closed as Craig left.

"Damn!" said William.

****



Craig entered his apartment dressed in borrowed clothes. Once again, he was alone with silence. His heart grew heavy and his throat tightened. He took a long deep breath and decided that it was time to call Mamma. He inhaled deeply one last time as he picked up the phone and dialed the numbers. She picked up in two rings.

"Hello?"

"Hey Ma', what's goin' on?"

"Hey baby, I was thinkin' bout you. You know if we don't hear from you everything is alright. So dat's why I don't call you. You know I be wantin' to. You doin' alright?"

"Yeah, Ma', I'm fine. I hadn't talked to you in a few days, so I was just checkin' in."

"Oh, okay. Everybody doin' good. Yo daddy in the kitchen eatin'. You wanna talk to him?"

"No, that's alright. Just tell him I called."

"Oh, okay, baby. You sho' you alright?" Craig took a deep breath, closed his eyes, held back the tears and responded.

"Yeah, Ma' I'm fine. Well, you know these long distance calls ain't free. So I better go."

"Okay, baby."

"I love you Ma'"

"Love you, too, baby.....Call us!"

"I will, Ma. Bye."

"Bye Craig." And the line was dead. Craig hung up the phone and sat there. He cried.

*****

Silas made one more drink. By now he was feeling the effects of the rum mixed with a little coke. He picked up the phone. He pressed the speed dial button. In seconds, he was connected.

"Yo, wassup, dis Red."

"Sup shawty. "

"You got some shit?"

"Gotta few tens left."

"Hook me up with two tens."

"Bet! Be there in ten." They disconnected. Silas smiled to himself as he walked through his house thinking about how the alcohol made him feel. He no longer had A.I.D.S. He no longer cared about anybody or anything. He was floating. He began to hum to Deangelo as he asked 'How does it feel?'

"It feels good, nigga!" Silas yelled as he stood in the middle of his apartment in a white wife-beater tank top, some jogging pants, and his socks. "Hell, yeah!!" he shouted. In seconds, his doorbell rang.

"I'm coming, Dammit!" He looked through the peep hole. It was his delivery. He opened the door. There in the hallway stood this short stocky guy.

"So you invitin' me in or what?"

---

written by senior staff writer
Queshan Hayes atlanta, ga.

writer profile and the direction of Door 655

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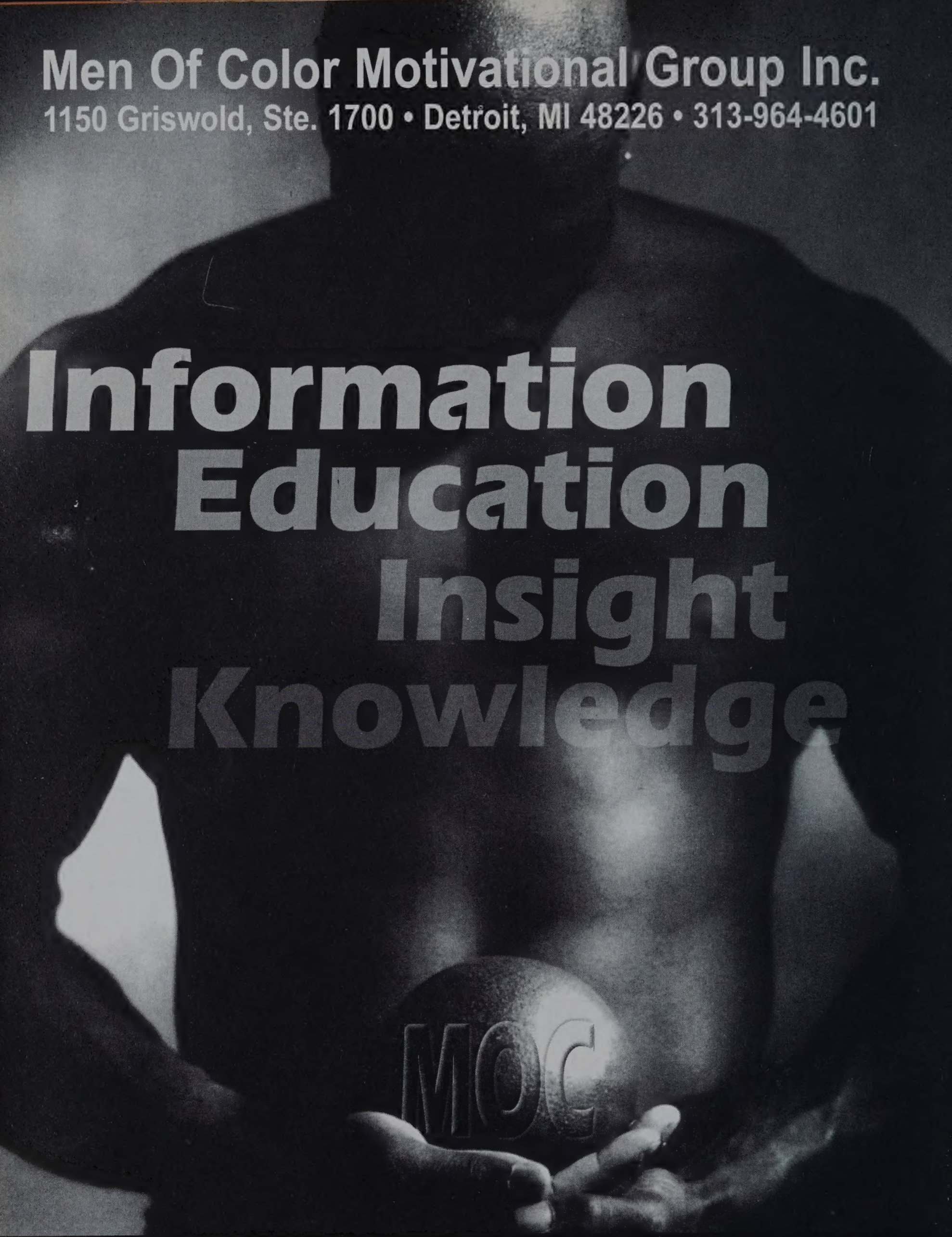

MEN OF COLOR MOTIVATIONAL GROUP INC. strives to empower African-American gay/bisexual/transgender men by providing information, education, insight, and knowledge on day to day issues in the African-American community. MOC advocates positive health strategies and non-biased information dissemination and education. Education and motivation of African-American men is our primary concern in order to bridge gaps of understanding and knowledge. We encourage openness, trust, and most of all mutual respect for one another.

Although the need of the African-American male is our primary focus, Men of Color welcome the participation of all community minded individuals. Our organization is equally aware of and sensitive to the needs of the community as a whole.

Components of our program include safer sex workshops, providing speakers for organizations and community outreach efforts, primary and secondary prevention case management and housing assistance programs, bars, and club outreach, material distribution and HIV/AIDS Peer Training, and HIV/AIDS Anonymous/Confidential Counseling and Testing.

Door 655 Continuef From Page 67

"Come in nigga." And from that point, they both relaxed and in minutes, the pungent smell of marijuana filled the apartment.

"Yo, man, I hear a lot of cats that are down are supposed to be fillin' up the city this week."

"Oh shit! Dat's right man. It's fuckin' Pride Weekend or whatever the fuck they call it."

"You gonna' be all out there and shit," asked the stocky guy.

"Hell No, man. But I'm still gonna fuck bout five of 'em!" said Silas as he took a deep drag from the joint and started laughing.

"Dat's the whole point of that shit man. All these niggas come out of the wood works and shit, bodies all cut up, just to find a good fuck or two for the weekend. Man it's crazy. But you know what?" he asked as he took another drag. " I live for that shit!" he laughed.

"So we gonna fuck or what, yo?" asked the stocky guy. Silas looked at him, vision slightly blurred, and smiled. He put out his joint. He got up and went to his bedroom. The guy followed. Silas started to take off his socks and suddenly, a vision of Craig jumped into his head. His heart began to race. "Fuck this honesty shit," he said to himself.

The stocky guy took off his shirt. His small stocky body was smooth like chocolate. They both undressed and slid into the bed. Soon, there tongues and bodies were intertwined. Silas couldn't wait to feel the guys hard, round ass. He went for that first. The guy rolled on top of him, which gave him the perfect opportunity. Silas palmed both globes with his hands and firmly pulled him into his own body. Their dicks were rock hard as they grinded into each other. Silas began to moan as did the visitor.

"What do you want, nigga?" whispered Silas, his warm breath teasing his visitor's ear.

"I want you to fuck me," he responded. Silas continued grinding into the guys body. Then, he stopped.

"Let's do it without a condom this time..." he said as his eyes rolled in the back of his head and he smiled.

****.

Craig laid across his bed and closed his eyes. The tears began to dry in the corner of his eyes. Soon, he was asleep. Darkness.

There he stood, on the top of a mountain. The sun was shining so brightly that he had to shield his eyes from the rays. Suddenly, the ground below his feet began to tremble. In three places, the soil began to sink. Where the sun was, a dark cloud took its place. Thunder and lightening caused him to blink. As he tried to regain his vision, three figures emerged from the holes. From the first hole emerged William. From the second emerged Wes. And from the third emerged Silas. All three completely naked. They all looked up to Craig with outstretched arms. In unison, their voices began to chant: "CRAIG...CRAIG.....CRAIG....CRAIG!" Craig's heart began to race.

Coming Soon:

DOOR 655: The Novel

"Leave me alone! STOP! Leave me alone!" he yelled. "NO...no....noooooo!" He jerked up.
He sat there at the edge of his bed in a cold sweat.

"Shit, what in the hell was that? Damn!......Damn, I need another shower," he said as he stood up and walked over to his full length mirror. He lifted his shirt and rubbed his flat stomach. He thought to himself about all that has happened in his life in such a short period of time. He stripped down and started the water for his shower. He stepped in. As he stood in the stream of hot water, he remembered the first time he brought himself to climax with visions of William in his head. But he couldn't do it now. Or could he?

He began to lather up and before he knew it, his dick began to stiffen. With his lathered left hand, he stroked it just once. He didn't realize that this would send a wave through him. He tilted his head back and dropped the soap. With his palms open, he grabbed himself, making a triangle with his hands and his dick being the center of that triangle. He massaged his inner thighs. Not only did he have William's body to imagine, but he now had lips, tongue, taste, and a sexual embrace. He closed his eyes and rolled his head around his neck. He began to moan reflexively. One of his hands left his warm dick and began to massage his chest and nipples. He began to breathe deeply and gyrate his hips, still stroking his rock hard dick. He knew he needed this private session, but he didn't know if he could handle climaxing. This one might be too much.

"Yeah....yeahhhhh....Yeah, William," he moaned as his dick slipped and slid between his fingers. "Oh shit!...oh shit!....Ohhhhh....ahhhh..." Craig began to lose his balance. He tried to regain his step, but stepped on the bar of soap. Before he could catch himself, he was halfway down. He fell with a loud thud as his head hit the side of the tub. He was out cold. In seconds, blood began to trickle down the side of the tub and blend with the warm water. He was unconscious......

STAY TUNED TO NEXT MONTH

WHITNEY
THE GREATEST HITS

WHITNEY HOUSTON'S 15-YEAR CAREER AT ARISTA CELEBRATED WITH HER GREATEST HITS RELEASES 36 SONG COLLECTION

In the midst of her 1 5th anniversary year as an Arista recording artist, and in the wake of her sixth Grammy win this year for "It's Not Right But It's Okay," WHITNEY - THE GREATEST HITS celebrates the career of the artist whose combined sales in the U.S. are more than 70 million units, and who has sold more than 110 million records and videos sold worldwide.

Highlights include newly-recorded duets with **George Michael**, **Enrique Iglesias** and **Deborah Cox**, a new song co-produced by **Q-Tip** and **Raphael Saadiq**, rare vintage tracks unavailable for a decade, impossible-to-find club mixes, and bonus tracks. The multi-tiered release encompasses Whitney's record-breaking success on the pop and R&B singles front.

WHITNEY- THE GREATEST HITS, a 36-track collection, comprises both the **Cool Down CD** of all the ballad hits in their original version and the **Throw Down** second CD of all the uptempo signature cuts and sizzling club mixes, both CD's spanning her entire career to date. Newly-recorded for the occasion are duets with Enrique Iglesias (the Diane Warren composition, **"Could I Have This Kiss Forever")** and Arista label-mates Deborah Cox **("Same Script, Different Cast")** and Q-Tip **("Fine")**, plus a brand new version of "If I Told You That" (from MY Love Is Your Love) that was reconfigured by producer Rodney Jerkins as a duet with George Michael, with additional production done by George Michael.

Spanning 1985 to 2000, WHITNEY- THE GREATEST HITS includes hard-to-find rarities (such as "One Moment In Time," the 1988 Summer Olympics theme; and l991's Super Bowl XXV version of "The Star Spangled Banner"); plus a most requested 1986 classic duet with Jermaine Jackson ("If You Say My Eyes Are Beautiful") that was released only on his album, never as a single.

The innovative programming of the two CDs (and cassettes) enables the listener to experience the full breadth of Whitney's career with both volumes. Disc 1 (Cool Down), for example, builds from her first hits of 1985, "You Give Good Love," "Saving All My Love For You," and "Greatest Love Of All," all the way to the year 2000 with two great new records featuring Enrique Iglesias and Deborah Cox respectively. Disc 2 (Throw Down) recaps the uptempo hits from My Love Is Your Love - with club remixes of "It's Not Right But It's Okay," "My Love Is Your Love," "Heartbreak Hotel" (featuring Faith Evans & Kelly Price), and "I Learned From The Best" - then presents remixes of ten more hits from Whitney's all-time classic repertoire. Disc 2's remixes show off the talents of such masters as **Junior Vasquez, David Morales, Jellybean, Hex Hector, Clivilles and Cole, The Dronez, Rodney Jerkins** and others.

The two volumes draw from Whitney's first three studio albums, Whitney Houston (1985, now certified 13-times RIAA platinum), Whitney (1987, 9x-platinum), and I'm Your Baby Tonight (1990, 4x-platinum); then Whitney's three original soundtrack albums, **The BodyGuard** (1992, 17x-platinum), Waiting To Exhale (1995, 7x-platinum), and The Preacher's Wife (1996, 3x-platinum), and her most recent My Love Is Your Love (1998, 3x-platinum). Whitney's U.S. album sales add up to a sub-total in excess of 56 million copies. Add to this figure: 13 RIAA gold and 6 platinum singles, the 4-times platinum "I Will Always Love You" single, one gold home video and two platinum home videos - and the total is well in excess of 70 million units sold in the U. S. alone. (Please see complete track listings, chart facts and RIAA certifications attached.

WHITNEY HOUSTON ON RECORD

WHITNEY HOUSTON

Whitney was signed to Arista Records by Clive Davis in 1983. Her self-titled debut album, Whitney Houston, released in 1985, yielded a string of hits including "You Give Good Love" and three consecutive #1 singles "Saving All My Love For You," "How Will I Know," and a song that has become a veritable anthem, "The Greatest Love of All." Not only did the album establish her as an important new recording artist, but it went on to sell over 13 million copies in the U.S., plus several million abroad. This LP set the record as the biggest selling debut album by a solo artist.

WHITNEY

With the highly anticipated release of her second album Whitney in 1987, she made history as the first female artist to enter the Billboard album charts at #1. Whitney featured a new stream of #1 chart-toppers "I Wanna Dance With Somebody (Who Loves Me)," "Didn't We Almost Have It All," "So Emotional," and "Where Do Broken Hearts Go" - that established Whitney as the only artist ever to have seven consecutive #1 hits, surpassing a record previously set by The Beatles and The Bee Gees.

I'M YOUR BABY TONIGHT

Whitney's third powerhouse solo album I'm Your Baby Tonight, released in 1990, displayed her versatility on a new collection of tough rhythmic grooves, soulful ballads and up-tempo dance tracks. With back-to-back #1 hits for the title tune and "All the Man That I Need," followed by "Miracle" and "My Name Is Not Susan," sales records were set once again, as the album became an international multi-Platinum best-seller, to the tune of 8 million copies worldwide.

MY LOVE IS YOUR LOVE

Whitney's fourth studio album Mv Love Is Your Love, which she produced with Clive Davis, was released in November 1998, and is certified RIM triple-Platinum in the U.S., with global sales in excess of 9 million units. It was actually Whitney's seventh career album, coming after the 8-gear period that brought the original motion picture soundtrack albums for The Bodyguard. Waiting To Exhale, and The Preacher's Wife. Mv love Is Your Love found Whitney collaborating with some of pop and R&B's hottest producers

POETRYTIME
Clikque Magazine

WE CAN CHANGE IT
by Damian D. Price

Where is it written?
We're all hoes.
Mess around on our lovers,
On, the down low.
Where does it say?
That we aren't capable,
So, don't give us a chance,
To be faithful.
Or, did you hear?
That we can't keep a man,
If we have a couple of,
Good-Good Friends.
Did you read in the paper?
We all have one-night stands,
With any man,
Any man we can.

No we're all not like that,
Some of us have class.
Not all of us are running around,
Throwing away the ass.
Some of us are out there,
Trying to be faithful.
So, give us a chance,
We'll show you we're capable.
So, we can change those myths,
They're not written in stone.
Let it start with you,
You be the one.
To change how people see us,
And change how people think,
We hold the destiny,
To our own fate.
So, from this day on,
Brother to Brother,
Let's change how we're seen,
One for another.
We Can Change It!

FLOWING
by Omoruyi

Flowing with energy at the Warehouse scene
...Vogue, Hip hop, Ruff Neck, Hoochie to Drag Queen
Modeling and profiling around the dance floor
Swirl, kick, drop and lay there ... Dior
The mood ... the rhythm of an Urban Crew
Sporty Divas and Dread Boys, letting it hang loose
Flowing with energy as I walk through the door
The message is in the music, yo! but I came for more
Muscle Bunnies, Clicks, Bar Flies, Bullshit Instigators
Get on the dance floor Sissies ...it's time for the Peculator
Ruff necks in braids geared down from head to feet
Smoking cigars and acting straight! Up! Street!
Hoochies in the club, shaking that ass and swinging they tits
Looking ghetto fabulous, and all that shit!
Ru Paul wannabes; I scream at Ms. Thing
Walk the runway... walk the runway ... Ms! Drag! Queen!
Jam up a sweat, before I rush the damn bar
Who hands me a flyer, that brother, the porn star,
I give it back to him... thanks, but this isn't me
He stuck his tongue in my ear... "Dare you to come see"
Moving to the upper level...take... a ... look... at... this
Underground flavor and a reggae mix!
Dark rooms with loud music setting a certain vibe
Strippers in the crowd... this shit is all the way live
You can be straight or on the same route
Or just dig funky people and need to get up out the house
Come in shady, down-to earth, or sport any kind of look
What ever you feel... this shit is off the hook
On a Saturday night... I don't know where you going
I'll be at the Warehouse ... cause yo! I be flowing

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POETRY TIME
Clikque Magazine

MARRY ME
by Jennifer Glover

Wedded bliss.

My bride, my stunning illuminant.
Consciously, with faith and belief I enter the state of Holy Matrimony.
I pledge my life to you, in marriage before God.
I commit myself all that I am, all that I have to you...

As we join hands,
Accept my vows, my ring as symbols of my undying, unconditional love.
Eager am I to kiss you before the eyes of God, blessed are we as he smiles upon us. Embrace my kiss, my lips as they delicately touch yours.
Know the kiss, the conclusion of the sacrament is just the beginning...

My Illuminant, Marry me...

Marry me though you may be on the outside, and will be forced to choose.
Marry me though "they may never understand".
Marry me though contempt may blaze in the eyes of family, neighbors & co-workers. Marry me though we don't live in a world where it's okay to love whomever we choose.

Marry me...

Marry me though people may gawk, point & glare.
Marry me though the elderly may wince, sneer, & rebuke our presence.
Marry me though people may writhe in disgust & label you a sinner.
Marry me though in some instances, I can't hold your hand or kiss your forehead.
Marry me though "we" can't buy land or a home together in certain states.

Marry me...

Be my joy, my only comfort in this world of infinite possibilities & prejudice.

Three tier chocolate cake stuffed into my mouth,
As well wishers blind us by snapping pictures.
My Illuminant, radiant in white, the first dance is mine.
Locked on your eyes, with courage I look into the future. I gaze into forever

MR. RIGHT
by Omoruyi

I was always searching for Mr. Right
Good looking brother, rich and dressed tight
What I always found was the gay man blues
Over and over, I kept getting used.
I didn't know about unconditional love
So I suffered and struggled with all the above.
Eventuaully I was forced to look myself
And had put all my wants on the bottom shelf
I went on a journey through my whole life
emptying my baggage full troubles and strife.
I t was revealed to me , that the games I played
I could be dead... or living with AIDS.
I needed this soul search, to take care of me
I learn to love myself and enjoy being free.
Now in the mornings and the end of the day
To the right Mr. Right I kneel and I pray
Maybe one day I will meet the right man
If it is GOD'S will and part of his plan.

HOPE
by Omoruyi

I need a brother that I can trust
I can't settle for less, am I expecting too much?
5 years of hope and my faith is not strong
Should I keep on wanting or give up and move on?
Statistics conclude that relationships dont last,
I am starting to wonder if they are a thing of the past.
Should I keep on hoping, what should I do?
Do you feel what I am saying?
Am I telling the truth?
I have my dream house with hard wood floors
Sunroom, patio and overlooking the shores.
From my office... I can see across the skies
Corporate America, with stars in my eyes.
But I what I need most...seems so far away
Should I keep on hoping... that it wont always be this way?

Trans-Central Station

By Teryl-Lynn Foxx — Miss Clikque America 2000

I was inspired to write this month's column after seeing the Oscar-award winner, Hillary Swank, in the movie Boys Don't Cry. The movie is a true story of a young woman who lives her life as a man. I see the movie as a love story and yet, as a tragedy, because of the senseless rape and murder of Brandon Teena. His rape and death were the result of the discovery of his transgendered orientation. I would highly recommend the movie to anybody with an interest in transgendereds.

In the movie I saw the transformation from female to male, the strapping down of the breasts, the use of a penile prosthesis, and the efforts it took to achieve the masculine persona. I was struck by the similarities those of us who are male-to-female transgenders use to achieve our female personas. Where Brandon used Ace bandages to strap down his breasts, we use breast prostheses in an effort to achieve cleavage. We also use duct tape to suppress those things I really don't need to mention to conceal that telltale bulge.

Another moving part of the film was when Brandon was being intimate with a female and, when the female reached to touch her in an intimate place, Brandon deftly moved the girl's hand away so her secret would not be discovered. Many male-to-female transgenders have been in similar situations. We meet somebody who is attracted to us as a female. We begin a relationship, start dating, and growing closer to each other. But...at what point does one reveal the "secret"?

After watching so many episodes of Jerry Springer (I really don't watch it every day, I promise), my heart bleeds for the panel members who are there to tell their potential mates, and the world, their little secret. I understand their plight. They have gone to great effort to show the person of their affection that they are loving, caring, kind, and sensitive well-rounded, real people. The hope is that when the truth is revealed, the person will continue to care, to love, and to want to be with you. There are fears of not only physical ramifications to revealing the truth, there may also be emotional consequences if the person decides he or she cannot accept the truth and no longer cares to share their life with you.

So, the question is, when and how does one reveal that secret? I don't believe it is necessary to introduce yourself in every casual encounter by saying "Hi, my name is Mary, and I'm a transsexual !" But you do owe it to yourself and to your mate if you are both becoming emotionally and potentially sexually involved, to be honest. It's not going to be easy, but it must be done, and it ain't on the Jerry Springer show-no matter how much they pay!

It's never an easy thing for some transsexuals who chose to live completely in the so-called straight life. They seem to want to forget their gayness and I can understand that because our gay/lesbian communities frequently do not give a transsexual respect. I've heard many of my sisters in the entertainment realm say derogatory things such as, "She's a man with a hole," "the bitch is crazy," "She will never be a woman as long as she can't bleed and give birth." How silly! So now a transsexual must leave a place where she once performed, where she is known in the gay community, and enter the straight world, hoping that nobody pours tea. I can personally attest to that. Once, when on a modeling assignment, an audience member commented how attractive I am, and another revealed that I was born a man. On another occasion, when a man stated I was the best looking woman he had seen in the past ten years, his friend proudly revealed, "That's no woman. That's my friend Terry and he's a guy." If the man had been interested in meeting me, his interest could have been blown out the window with that revelation.

Transcentral Continues On Page 86

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Man Or Woman

By: Michael Whitley

There is a common phenomenon in the gay community of new coming out males who start off masculine and then quickly acquiesce toward femininity. The repetitive system displays itself throughout the gay community, absorbing like a rolling glacier, and plagues all within its proximity.

A few questions first:

Why is that the football players in high school become drag queens in the club? Why do most gay men consider themselves to have pussies and call each other "girls."

What is the attraction of gay men and femininity? It could be hypothesized that feminine gay men feel more comfortable in the feminine role because a man who loves another man can't be a man. There is also the scientific data that some gay men are born with more estrogen than others, like some lesbians are born with more testosterone, making them more masculine or feminine than the average. However, it really doesn't matter how much of the hormone estrogen or testosterone you have because both hormones are for producing male and female secondary sex characteristics, like facial hair for men and breast for women; the hormones don't create the illusion of masculinity or femininity, society does. Femininity is an illusion, a characteristic usually associated with females. It's what separates females and males, and it is what heterosexual women use to attract heterosexual men. Femininity and masculinity are weapons for sexual attraction. In the traditional sense the opposites come together and a non-traditional sense the similarities come together. A masculine heterosexual man will not be attracted to a masculine heterosexual female, vice versa, because the definition of heterosexuality is the attraction of opposites, just as the definition of homosexuality is the attraction of similarities. The fact is: Gay men want masculine men because masculinity and the male sexual organs are what make a male a man. The illusion of masculinity is the attraction and most gay men want the illusion. The thought is: "If I wanted to be with a girl, I'll be straight." With that argument in mind, logically, you would think that most gay men would be more masculine since masculinity, the illusion, is the attraction. It's pure and simple, the more masculine you are in the gay world, the more you will attract and the more femine you are, the more you will repel. I hate to say it but what gay man really wants a Queen. They will settle for the androgynous (Daddy-girls), kill for the extreme masculine (Trade), and overlook the Queen each every time. No gay man wants a "wife" but a good percentage of gay men want to be the wives, there is obviously a contradiction.

I remember when I was a child and on my block lived this black gay male and his name was Peaches. I remember Peaches vividly because of the constant ridicule he suffered because of his hideous futile attempt of trying to impersonate a woman. I remember being ashamed for him. I remember thinking is this what I suppose to grow up and be like. I remember hiding that "feeling" deeper inside.

A child recognizes early in life what is viewed as normal and begins to acquiesce towards that ideal. When I finally said to myself that I was gay, my main fear was losing power as a man. I knew a gay male would be considered weak because he's associated with feminine characteristics and feminine acts such as sleeping with another male. I knew the world would look at me indifferent and consider me invalid because of their illusion of my sexuality.

Lesbians on the other hand have easier because they're associated with masculinity and their sexuality is the male heterosexual's dream. Lesbian have more power because they demand more power and that is the reason why lesbian rappers, actors and singers can exist openly. You will never see in our lifetime an open black gay male rapper, actor or singer because the industry will not allow the bravery. Until gay men (especially black gay men) begin asserting their masculinity, society will continue labeling them invalid and powerless.

Another issue with gay men taking on feminine characteristics is they feed into what is suppose to be the stereotypical role of a woman, that is to be co-dependent on her husband. This co-dependent ideology occurs mostly with younger gay men. A good percentage of young gay men come into the gay life wanting someone to take care of them. I once read an article on Black males and homosexuality, and in the article an acclaimed Black psychologist stated that black men were gay because they want to escape responsibility as a man. Although I disagree with his logic; however, I do feel his statement has some truth and reflects the mentality of a significant percentage of young gay men. I've seen it happen a thousand of times where a young gay male will get himself in a precarious situation because he moved into the house of his "sugar daddy" and soon as the "daddy" was tired of taking care of him, the young male was out on the street. Sometimes the relationship is violent and the young male stays in the relationship because he feels he has nowhere else to go. The cycle repeats itself like an angry merry go round.

The concept of manhood is the ability to provide for self. It is emasculating to live in a house that is not yours, drive a car you don't own, and to believe it all belongs to you because you're young and he's an old fool. It is more empowering to struggle and obtain material objects you desire than to lease your soul, body, and pride to someone you have no passion or fundamental concupiscence.

Some Answer

It is my opinion, that we as gay men should begin acting like men. I'm not suggesting the traditional sense of what a "man" is, but the ideology of manhood. The first step is to assert your masculinity by fully accepting yourself and defending your sexuality. Gay men shouldn't be shame of the way the Universe, Nature or God made them. The next step is to demand respect. Vote. Let your voice be heard. Take your lover home and introduce him to the family. I don't believe in parading your sexuality, but don't hide your sexuality. Sexuality is natural and it doesn't need acceptance or promulgation. Just be, with a vengeance. Black male homosexuals especially need a voice. The thing why black male heterosexuals are so antipathetic toward black male homosexuals is because they feel their own masculinity is threatened. I say threaten their masculinity. It is about time that black gay men come out of the closet and out to the world. The truth is black gay men are becoming the new sambas and picknanies in the black media. Most times you see a Black film, the Black homosexual is portrayed as an extreme one-dimensional effeminate caricature. The reason for this re-existing character is because there is no negation of its validity. No one is standing up for black homosexuals, not even black homosexuals, because they're all too busy keeping it on the "D.L." I'll admit there are some gay black men out there fighting for the cause, but they are so few fighting against a war that is so colossal.

In conclusion, gay men assert your masculinity! There is nothing wrong with two men loving each and there is nothing wrong with a man having some feminine characteristics as long as it comes natural. Yet, there is something wrong with a man who purposely becomes extremely feminine because they lose power and validity as a man. To all the young gay and bisexual men, don't feed into that ideology of letting a man take care of you because you're only compromising yourself and wasting your youth. Lastly, there is nothing wrong with being gay and proud, but the flaming, caricatured queens only bring shame to themselves and lose validity in the eyes of society.

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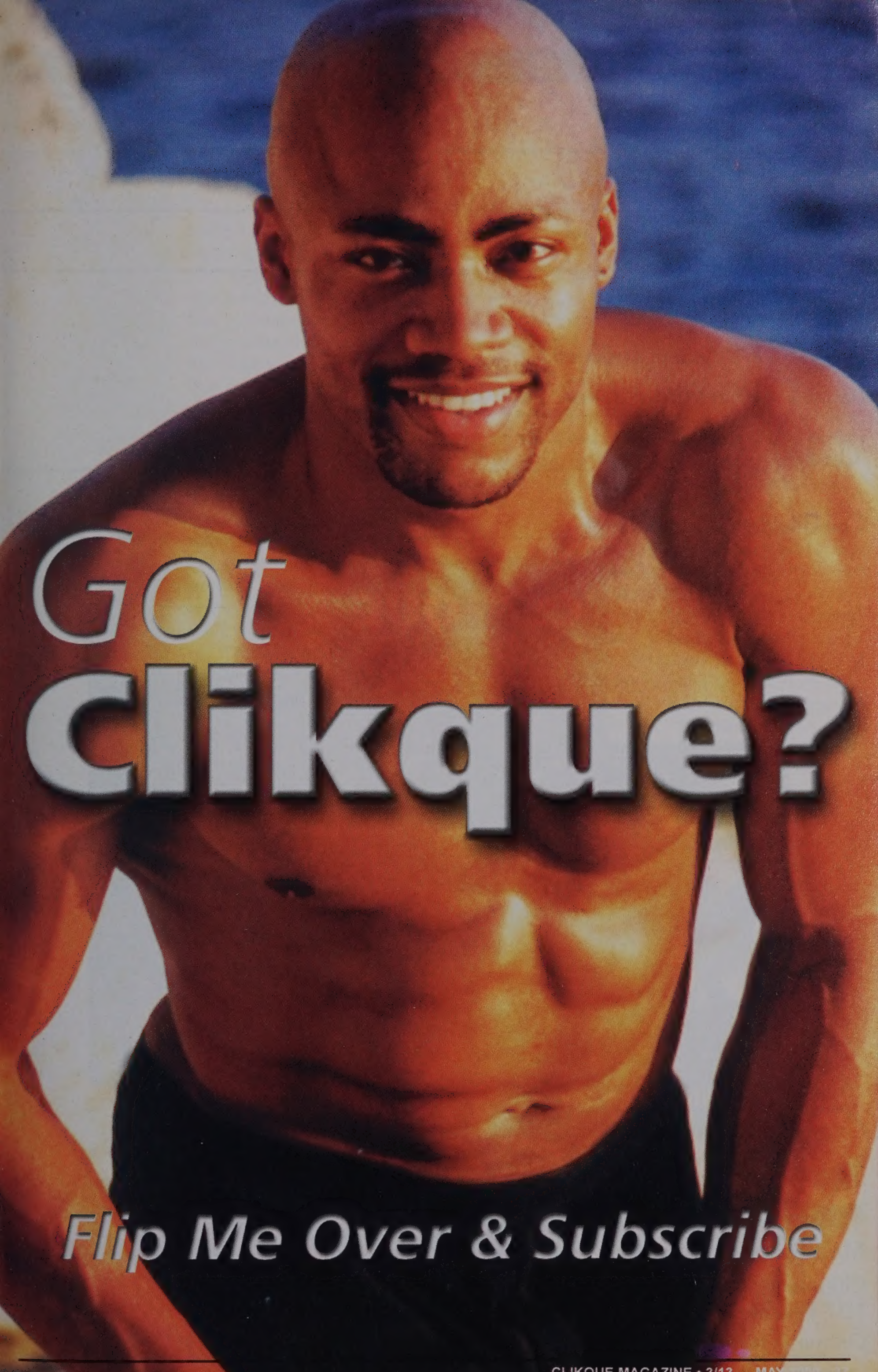
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TransForum

What About Us?

Hello everyone! It is always a blessing to be able to greet you every month. After the emotional and physical drama that I experienced within the last couple months, I am all too happy that its over and that things are getting back to normal (whatever normal is anyway). Sometimes it just takes longer than you expect to heal from certain circumstances, which can be both good and bad. Whatever the initial outcome is you normally come out of it feeling stronger and more focused, not to mention a little wiser. Well, that is what happened to me. I'm talking Drama with a capitol "D".

Although I'm still considered pretty young by most, I can honestly say that I recently came out of one of the fiercest storms of my life. Believe me, that statement is no exaggeration. I consider myself somewhat sheltered, and this shelter has enabled me to avoid some of life's harshness. However, even the most sheltered individual cannot escape it all. Life's little "evils" find their way to your front door. What really matters though is how you choose to deal with those situations. Will you control the outcome or will you just give up and allow the outcome to control you. As the old saying goes "whatever doesn't kill us makes us stronger." I tend to agree with that statement.

On top of everything else that we have to deal with as transsexuals, and for those of you reading, we deal with a lot, we still have to face other "demons", mainly social and political. Every time we walk out of our front door we have to decide whether we have enough courage to get through the day. It is really not fair.

Let me tell you about an incident that happened to a friend of mine. As usual this person will remain nameless. A friend of mine had to make the decision to quit her job after one of the women in the same office building complained that she did not appreciate the fact that someone who was still legally a man was using the same restroom as she was. This same woman, and I use that term to describe her very loosely, had the unmitigated gaul to suggest that my friend use the handicap restroom. WHAT?! So all of a sudden we are "handicapped? I could not believe what she told me. People can be so cruel. I could personally care less who is using the restroom the same time as I am as long as they are not trying to get in the stall with me. Needless to say my friend did not stop using the female restroom and they gave her so much static about she ended up quitting a really good job.

written by staff writer
Dorian Kelly-Jahman
atlanta, ga.

I not sure what I would have done but I'm not sure if quitting was the answer. Why do we give up so easily? Why do we let allow others to either define who we are, or control our destinies? Rosa Parks didn't complain, she started a revolution. Maybe that is exactly what we need to do. I'm game if you are. It only takes one person to stand for something, if we don't we could all fall for anything. I prefer standing myself.

Until Next Time!

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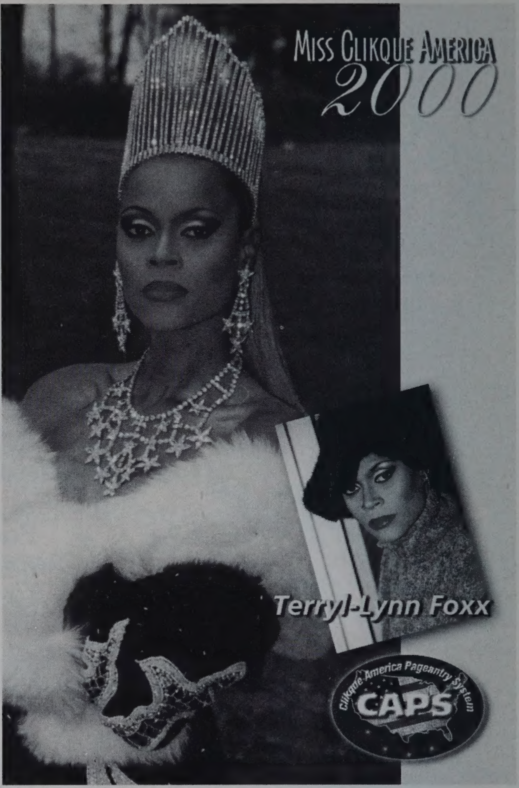
Transcentral Continued

I have not been fortunate to know any female-to-male transgenders and I have a definite lack of knowledge of their community and their problems. My comments come from my own orientation and I do not intentionally omit the female-to-male transsexuals. I just don't have the knowledge to do you justice.

It is important that we as transsexuals get to a place of comfort where we can reveal that we are transsexuals and release that monkey off our backs. It is extremely stressful to prepare for a day's activities, making sure everything is in its proper place, hair, make up and nails, only to walk out and have people stare. If you have not found your comfort zone, paranoia can set in and you begin to think they are not staring because you are the epitome of beauty, but mistakenly because you are transgendered.
Yes, I am transsexual, and so what?

Endless love,
Teryl-Lynn

P.S. If you have comments on any of my columns, I would love to hear from you. I would also like to know if you are reading them, and understanding and comprehending the transgender movement.



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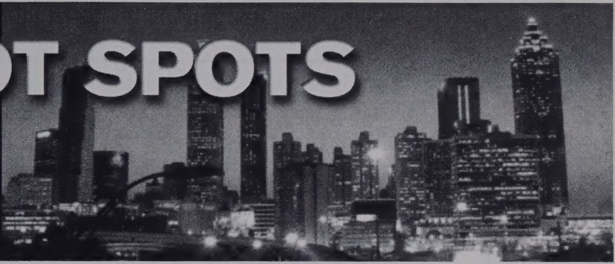

Your Premiere Guide To Clubs Across America

Be advised that clubs go out of business and clientele sometime changes. Therefore, it may be in your best interest to call before you visit any of the clubs listed here.

ATLANTA, GA

BACKSTREET ATLANTA
845 Peachtree Street (Rear Entrance) 404-873-1986. Always Open & Pouring. Membership Required * Membership Available. Hip-Hop Tuesdays w/DJ Biff

BULLDOGS
893 Peachtree Street, 404-872-3025. One of Atlanta's most happening nightspot. Open seven days a week.

CLUB FUSION
550-C Amsterdam Ave., Midtown, 404-872-6411 Black and gay on Thursdays, Fridays, & Sundays.

CLUB JAGUAR
W. Peachtree & 15th St., 404-874-5673. Fridays- For women that love women; 10pm-4am

THE OTHERSIDE
1924 Piedmont Rd., 404-875-5238. Blackest on Wednesday.

THE PALACE
91 Broad Street, 404-522-3000. Doors open at 5PM seven days a week.

THE SEQUEL
708 Spring Street, 404-874-8125. Open Sundays-Wednesdays

THELMA'S PUMP ROOM
836 Juniper, 404-881-9230. Black on Friday Nights for the Best in Female Impersonation.

TRAXX NIGHTCLUB
306 Luckie St., N.W., 404-681-4422
Black and gay on Mondays, Thursdays & Saturdays.

BALTIMORE, MD

THE PARADOX
1310 Russel St. 410-837-9110. Saturdays Nights Hip-Hop Dance Floor, House & Classics.

BIRMINGHAM, AL

LATROYS
316 20th Street South, 205-322-8338.

CHARLOTTE, NC

300 STONEWALL
300 E. Stonewall (at S. Blvd.), 704-347-4200

CLUB MYXX
3110 S. Tryon Street, 704-525-5001. Blackest Fri. & Sat.

THE MASQUERADE
3018 The Plaza (at 35th), 704-344-1770

SCORPIO'S LOUNGE 2301 Freedom Dr., 704-373-9124

VINTAGE 401 Plaza Rd., 704-536-7566

CHICAGO, IL

GENTRY ON HALSTED
3320 N. Halsted St., 773-348-1053. Blackest on Saturday.

THE RAILS
1675 N. Elston Ave., 708-802-1705. Black Friday Nights

THE CONVENT 1529 W. Armitage

COLUMBIA, SC

CANDY SHOP 1903 Two Notch Road

DALLAS, TX

METRO 2204 Elm St., 214-742-2101.

DETROIT, MI

OFF BROADWAY EAST NIGHT CLUB
12215 Harper Ave., 313-521-0920

REGINES'S OFF THE PARK
711 East McNichols, 313-865-4747

DURHAM, NC

J&L's 2627 Hillsboro Road, Durham, 919-286-5032

POWER COMPANY
315 W. Main Street, Durham, 919-683-1151 Blackest - Sat.

LEGENDS
330 W. Hargett Street, Raleigh, 919-831-8888 — Fri. & Sat.

HOUSTON, TX

INCOGNITO- THE CLUB
2524 McKinney St., 713-237-9431. Fri, Sat & Mon. Black

RASCALS THE NIGHTCLUB
1318 Westheimer, 713-942-CLUB. Mostly Black Thursdays - Sundays from 10PM.

JACKSON, MS

CLUB CITY LIGHTS
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JACKSONVILLE, FL

THIRD DIMENSION
711 Edison Ave., 904-353-6316. Mixed Crowd.

MEMPHIS, TN

N-COGNITO 338 S. Front St., 901-523-0599.

MONTGOMERY, AL

FAT BOY'S FOLLIES 215 North Court Street. 334-269-6050

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COPA NIGHTCLUB
2800 S. Federal Hwy., Ft. Lauderdale 954-463-1507. Blackest on Sunday.

CASABLANCA
Hallendale Beach - Off I-95 954-454-8400. Thurday Night all Black, Male Dancers

SUGAR'S
17060 W. Dixie Hwy., North Miami, 305-940-9887. Blackest on Friday

WATERFRONT
36th Street near Airport., Miami, 305-635-5696. Blackest on Tuesdays

NASHVILLE, TN

THE CONNECTION
901 Cowan St., 615-742-1166 Blackest on Thursdays

NEW ORLEANS, LA

WOLFENDALE'S
834 N. Rampart, 504-596-2236

NEW YORK, NY

CLUB HOUSE
215 W. 28th St. House, Hip-Hop. Black on Wednesdays.

ESCUELITA
301 West 39th St. (Corner of 8th Ave.) 212-631-0588. Black & Latin on Thursdays & Fridays

THE WAREHOUSE
141 E. 140th St., Bronx, 718-992-5974. Blackest on Saturdays

OAKLAND, CA

RIM SHOT
120 11th St., 510-444-2266. Black on Sat., Sun., & Wednesdays.

ORLANDO / TAMPA, FL

CLUB QUEST
745 Bennett Road, Orlando 407-228-8226. Blackest on Thursday, Friday and Saturday

PARLIAMENT HOUSE
410 N. Orange Blossom Trail, Orlando 407-425-7571. Blackest any night after 1 a.m. and Fridays & Saturdays.

SOUTHERN NIGHTS
375 S. Bumby Ave., Orlando, 407-898-0424. Blackest on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday

RICHMOND, VA

CLUB COLOURS
536 N. Harrison St., 804-599-9143 Richmond's African-American Club of True Diversity.

TALLAHASSEE, FL

CLUB PARK AVENUE
115 E. Park Ave., 850-599-9143

BROTHERS
926 West Tharpe Street, 850-386-2399. Black Nights-Fridays & Saturdays.

WASHINGTON, DC

BACHELOR'S MILL
1104 8th St. S.E., 202-544-1931.Black Men Dancing Thursday thru Saturday.

CLUB DIVERSITE
1526 14th St. N.W., 202-387-2338.

DELTA ELITE
3734 10th St. N.E., 202-529-0626. Women on Fridays & Men on Saturdays.

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Recognition from the
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Limited Editon Friend of Pride T shirt
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YELLOW $100 ☐

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One VIP Party Invitation
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CLIKQUE CONNECTION

Personals

MEN: CALL 1-800-546-MENN FOR YOUR FREE PERSONAL

California

PARTY GUY Very good-looking African/American, 40, total bottom, party Guy. Seeking hot, erotic top who can take care of me. You will be pleased. (San Francisco) ☎10912

BODY BUILDER Very well-built, 24-year-old Male, 6'6", 250 lbs., shaved head, goatee, tattooed. If interested, leave a message. (Anaheim) ☎10599

I NEED A TEACHER GHM, 43, romantic, first time experience seeking patient friend, age open, who is a good instructor and willing to show me the way to having a good time. (Torrence) ☎10193

DAVE IS AN 18-year-old Male, well-endowed, very oral, enjoys anal sex. If interested, leave a message. ☎10766

EAGER FIRST TIMER Len is a 32-year-old Male, 5'9", 150 lbs., brown/brown, in good shape, tan. Seeking dominant, well-endowed, Daddy-type Male, for first time experience. (Palm Springs) ☎22695

NOT INTO PAIN Gary enjoys bondage. Seeking Male under 29, lean, hard body, muscular, thin, submissive, very oral, for fun times. #21389

THANK YOU SIR Jim is a 48-year-old WM, 5'10", 183 lbs., bottom, enjoys B&D, S&M, watersports. If interested, leave a message. #10751

LET'S HOOK UP Shawn is a 26-year-old Male, 6'0", 170 lbs., good-looking, brown/blue, well-endowed. Seeking Male to hook up with. (San Diego) %20800

Florida

GBM, 21, SEEKING B/HGM who is interested in hooking up with a definite bottom. If you are a hot top, let's talk and see where it goes. Give me a holler. (Miami) ☎10902

STRETCHY FABRICS TURN ME ON 49-year-old GWM, 5'11", HWP, good-looking, enjoys pantyhose, massage, touching, kissing, mutual masturbation, the outdoors, movies, theater. Seeking Male with similar interests. (Jacksonville) ☎10631

Georgia

VERY SEXY Reginald is a 34-year-old Male, 6'0", 180 lbs., HIV+, healthy, sexy, versatile. If interested, leave a message. (Atlanta) ☎11018

SEEKING SCORPIO OR TAURUS Wendell is a 44-year-old Male, smoker, drinker. Seeking a straight-acting Male. ☎10573

MASCULINE MEN ONLY Jimmy is a GBM, 5'7", 135 lbs., HIV+, versatile, attractive. Seeking masculine, discreet BM, for friendship, possible relationship. (Atlanta) ☎10468

NO STRINGS Donald is a 29-year-old Male, 5'7", 205 lbs. Seeking a well-endowed B/HM 35-60, for fun times. (Atlanta) ☎22796

LIKE TO FREAK? Tony is a brown-skinned BiM, 5'9", 170 lbs., 6". Seeking Male lat-30s, out-going, who likes to freak. ☎22481

VERY CUTE TV Very cute, passable TV, 5'11", n/s, laid-back, easy-going, enjoys lingerie, travel, dating, movies, dining out, cuddling, slow dancing. Seeking masculine Male, for possible relationship. ☎14299

WHAT'S UP GBM, 23, 5'11", 155 lbs., light complexion, hazel eyes, low fade. Seeking Male for friendship. (Atlanta) ☎21398

NOT INTO GAMES Dre is a 34-year-old BM, 5'10", 134 lbs., HIV+, healthy, versatile, attractive, sincere, understanding. Seeking Male for true friendship, possible relationship. ☎21055

FRIENDSHIP IN ATLANTA Marcus is a very attractive Male, 5'9", 160 lbs., clean-cut. Seeking masculine, top, muscular Male, for friendship in the Atlanta area ☎18374

KEVIN IS A 27-year-old WM, 5'8", 130 lbs., dark/blue, smooth. Seeking Male for friendship or whatever. (Atlanta) ☎20971

HIT ME BACK Dane is a 24-year-old BiWM, 6'3", 175-180 lbs., pierced, tattooed, shaved head, well-built, well-endowed, masculine. Seeking football player, military type, masculine Male. (Atlanta) ☎20663

KEEP IT ON THE DOWN LOW Lee is a straight-acting BM, 6'2". Seeking BM to hang with on the down low. (Atlanta) ☎20761

LET'S LIVE A LITTLE BTV, 28, looking for mature, understanding Guy who knows what he wants out of life. Let's build a meaningful relationship together. ☎20472

NEW TO ATLANTA GBM, 35, seeking BM, straight-acting, who is discreet. Interesting and fun times are ahead for the right person. Please leave a message. (Stone Mountain) ☎20438

ARE YOU READY? Young GBM, distinct bottom is seeking GM, definite top, any age or race, for a great time. (Atlanta) ☎19759

CAN YOU TOP THIS? R.K. is a 30-year-old BM, 5'11", 190 lbs., 36" waist, stocky build, brown complexion, low hair-cut, mustache, clean-shaven, bottom. Seeking top Male. ☎19092

WILL IT BE YOU? SBM, 6'4", 250 lbs, seeking nice Gentleman, race unimportant, for friendship and casual dating. Let's see if the magic is there for a new friendship. (Atlanta) ☎18290

FUN THAT'S IT African-American Male, enjoys sports, movies, hanging out. Seeking Male to have fun with. ☎14094

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KEVIN IS A 27-year-old WM, 5'8", 130 lbs., dark/blue, smooth. Seeking Male for friendship or whatever. (Atlanta) #20971

ENJOYS BEING TOUCHED Tana is a beautiful, older TV, mature, intelligent. Seeking Male for possible long-term relationship. #14299

HIT ME BACK Dane is a 24-year-old BiWM, 6'3", 175-180 lbs., pierced, tattooed, shaved head, well-built, well-endowed, masculine. Seeking football player, military type, masculine Male. (Atlanta) #20663

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ARE YOU READY? Young GBM, distinct bottom is seeking GM, definite top, any age or race, for a great time. (Atlanta) #19759

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WILL IT BE YOU? SBM, 6'4", 250 lbs, seeking nice Gentleman, race unimportant, for friendship and casual dating. Let's see if the magic is there for a new friendship. (Atlanta) #18290

FUN THAT'S IT African-American Male, enjoys sports, movies, hanging out. Seeking Male to have fun with. #14094

BIG GUY Kevin is a 33-year-old African-American Male, honest. Seeking cool, down-to-earth, honest, masculine Male, for friendship. (Atlanta) #15633

DAVID ON THE LINE GBM, 5'11", medium build, nice lips, attractive, bottom seeking H/BM, for casual dating and sharing good times. We can kick it if we are right for each other. (Atlanta) #14958

SERIOUS RELATIONSHIP POSSIBLE I am for real. GBM, 28, very attractive looking for a possible partner and long-term relationship. If you are serious and are commitment-minded let's see if we are right for each other. No fats or femmes. (Atlanta) #14285

MATURE WELL-TOOLED Mature very-pretty TV pre-op TS seeking loving, versatile oral top who can help me be a real Woman. You will be pleased. (Savannah) #14299

NO STRINGS ATTACHMENT GWM, 23, seeking GM, under 25, race is open, for sexual good times. Does this sound good to you? If so drop me a message. (Atlanta) #14757

LOW FADE GBM Rick is a GBM, 23, dark skin, 5'10", 155 lbs, very masculine, very professional seeking a buddy who deisres a new friend. Our relationship would be purely platonic. I am in a committed relationship and all that is wanted is a new friend to share some fun times together. #10053

BROTHER WANTS TO CHILL SBM, 5'9", 148 lbs, 24, discreet, bottom is seeking for a friend, Brother, top who wants more than a sexual relaltionship. We can have some great times together, let's try to connect. (College Park) #14401

Illinois

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CATCH OF THE DAY GWM, 6'4", 195 lbs, very muscular, 45, very dark brown, blue eyes, very healthy, seeking well-endowed bottom GM, 6'+, who is romantic, nuturing, honest. Age and race is open. (Chicago) ☎10822

HISPANIC SCORPIO George is a 48-year-old GHM, 5'10", 150 lbs., Scorpio, bottom, passionate, sexual, enjoys gardening, cooking barbecuing, going out, quiet evenings, dining out, walks, biking.. Seeking Male top, with similar interests, for friendship, possible relationship. (Chicago) ☎10705

I LIKE MASSAGES BiWM, 31, open-minded, sincere seeking friend who enjoys massages, interesting times and some new adventures. Let's try to connect and give it a go. ☎10341

NEW TO CHICAGO Carlos is B/HM, 5'6", 34" waist, new to the area. Seeking a down-to-earth, well-endowed Male to hook up with. (Chicago) ☎10231

BATMAN SEEKING ROBIN Masculine, 35-year-old Male, 6'0", 185 lbs., enjoys costumes, mild bondage, toys, restraints. Seeking submissive, Male 21-45, under 5'9", with similar interests. ☎10435

Michigan

NEED TAKE CHARGE TOP Experienced bottom. Seeking GM, over 45, who loves to be a top. I am into most everything, also fun to be with. Give me a try, you will be pleased. (Detroit) ☎10899

YOU WON'T BELIEVE Semi-Virgin CD, 50, tall, slender seeking GWM, under 50, for exotic adventures beyond reality. (Detroit) ☎10711

AUTHENTIC, TRADITIONAL SPANKING Bud is 6'3", 220 lbs., dark/dark, mustache, muscular, enjoys spanking. Seeking an older Male, with similar interests. (Detroit) ☎10734

30-YEAR-OLD GAM, 5'9", 190 lbs. Seeking mature, sincere, educated, healthy GWPM, for friendship, possible relationship. (Detroit) ☎10702

DRESS-UP WITH YOU Feminine, 40-year-old GWM, thin, smooth, sexy. Seeking light complexion, thin, feminine, A/BMTV (Detroit) ☎10603

KEEP IT ON THE DOWN LOW Tony is a brown-skinned Male, 210 lbs., bald, nicely built. Seeking masculine, dominant, discreet, dark-skinned, stocky BM, for hanging out and friendship. (Detroit) ☎10400

WHOLESOME LIFESTYLE GBM, 33, very Single, 5'10", 150 lbs, clean-shaven, short hair, ISO GBM, 30-45, dark skin, masculine, sincere, honest, loyal are very important factors. Friendship, companionship and possible LTR for the right person. Let's talk. (Detroit) ☎22609

ACTOR IN DETROIT Matty is a 25-year-old W/HM, 5'5", 170 lbs., brown/green. Seeking Male for friendship. (Grosse Point) ☎10281

ARE YOU NAUGHTY? SWM, 45, 6'2", 200 lbs, interested in both giving and receiving spanking. Let's give it a go, you will be pleased. (Detroit) ☎10150

ARE YOU WELL HUNG? GBM, 28, very freaky, 6'3", bald, dimples, well hung seeking GM, 18-25, well-endowed who desires some new experiences and new adventures. Horny and ready to go. (Detroit) ☎10144

LIFE AND LOVE Jerry is a GWM, 6'2", 172 lbs., secure, established, attractive, enjoys running, kayaking, blading, biking, movies, theater, weekend getaways. Seeking similar, sincere Male for friendship, possible relationship. ☎22675

BM ONLY 25-year-old BM, 6'3", 185 lbs. Seeking younger BM, if interested, leave a message. (Detroit) ☎10080

WHAT'S UP FELLAS? Chris is a 30-year-old BM, 5'9", 150 lbs., attractive. Seeking Male for friendship. (Detroit) ☎22711

CALL ME Ervin is a BM, 6'1", 165 lbs., looking for a good time. (Detroit) ☎22541

NO TIME FOR GAMES 41-year-old GWM, 5'8", 165 lbs., brown/hazel, beard, mustache, HIV+, healthy, attractive, down-to-earth, practical. Seeking GBM 30-55, for quality time. (Detroit)

New York

LET'S HANG OUT TOGETHER GWM, 42, very handsome, muscular ISO counterpart who is interested in a new friend. Many possibilities exist for a great friendship. (NYC) #14845

HOT TIME IN BIG APPLE GWM, 6'2", 185 lbs, black/brown, 8" enjoys all sports, seeking GM, age and race open, for threesome, foursome or whatsome. Give me a call. (New York City) _14810
☎22721

Tennessee

YOU CALL I HAUL GWM, very submissive seeking dominant Male who can show me the ropes in how to become a very obident slave. (Memphis) ☎10843

Texas

FIT THIS DESCRIPTION? Cupid is a 21-year-old Male, 5'7", 125 lbs., enjoys singing, dancing, writing music, modeling. Seeking tall Male, 20-30, nice personality, good-humored, fun-loving. (Houston) ☎10776

OPEN TO ANYTHING Leo is a BM, 5'8", 175 lbs., light complexion, HWP, enjoys having fun, going out. Seeking Male for friendship, possible relationship. (Houston) ☎10503

HIT ME SBM, enjoys having fun, chillin. Seeking versatile SBM, with similar interests. (Houston) ☎10078

RAUNCHY LEATHER DADDY Jay is 5'10", 185 lbs., short hair, clean-shaven. Seeking pig boy bottom. ☎22782

Virginia

CONSIDERED ATTRACTIVE 28-yeaer-old GWM, 6'0", 170 lbs., black/hazel, 32" waist, very attractive. Seeking straight-acting/appearing Male. #17546

FIRST TIME Attractive WM, 6'0", 190 lbs, curious. Seeking an aggressive, good-looking, slim, uncut Male, for first time experience. (Chesterfield) #15741

CLIKQUE CONNECTION

Personals

WOMEN: CALL 1-800-546-MEET FOR YOUR FREE PERSONAL

California

CHILDREN WELCOME Gina is a 30-year-old Female, mother of one, enjoys talking, the beach, sports, reading, music. Seeking Female for an honest friendship, possible relationship. (Huntington Beach) #21839

INTERESTED? 25-year-old HF, enjoys singing, dancing, listening, talking. If interested, leave a message. #21677

DON'T WASTE MY TIME! 26-year-old, feminine BF, light complexion. Seeking an attractive, mature, feminine Female, 25+, 5'5"+, HWP, light to brown complexion, down-to-earth, spontaneous, for friendship, possible relationship. (Inglewood) #21821

ECCENTRIC-LOOKING BIBF SBiBF, 20, 5'6", 140 lbs., dreadlocks, pierced, fit, enjoys poetry, reading, sketching, painting. Seeking SA/BF, honest, intelligent, down-to-earth, for friendship, possible relationship. (Los Angeles) #21519

Florida

BI-CURIOUS, MARRIED FEMALE Bi-curious, Married Female seeking an intelligent, educated, open-minded, soft, pretty, discreet, sexy, disease/drug-free, bi-curious Female, for safe fun. (Miami) #16906

Georgia

LIKE WHAT I LIKE? 32-year-old WF, 5'7", 175 lbs., brown/hazel, enjoys classical movies, long walks on the beach, outdoors, sports, camping, fishing, swimming. If you like what I like, call me! #17537

GIVE ME A HOLLER Black Diamond, 21, 5'4", 125 lbs, medium complexion, no piercings, unattached seeking stud, 19-24, hit me up. Will return all calls. (Georgia) #18921

NIKA IS A BIBF, 5'11", 185 lbs. Seeking Female, for true friendship. (Atlanta) #18225

VERY, VERY ROMANTIC 32-year-old WF, 5'7", 140 lbs., brown/hazel, very romantic, enjoys the outdoors, long walks, movies, dancing, sports, music, cooking, candle light dinners, wine, fireplaces. Seeking Female with similar interests, for possible relationship. (Homerville) #17537

WHERE ARE YOU? 22-year-old Female, 5'2", 125 lbs. Seeking Female 25-32, medium to thick build, no children. #15416

Michigan

YOU SHOULD BE WITH ME 32-year-old GBPF, enjoys music, theater, poetry readings, karate tournaments, working out. Seeking PF 30-35, no children, n/s, drug-free, with similar interests. (Detroit) #20724

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PETITE BF Pamela is a petite, sexy BF. Seeking Female with a good sense of humor. (Detroit) #21202

TOMBOYISH FEMALE Very attractive, 29-year-old GBF, 5'7", 130 lbs., light complexion, n/s, n/drinker, enjoys bowling, playing pool, shopping, theater, dining out. Seeking feminine, SF 24-32, , no taller than 5'5", no heavier than 165 lbs., no more than one child, very independent, n/s, for friendship, possible relationship. (Detroit) #17609

VARIETY OF COLORS 32-year-old African-American PF. Seeking an erotic, n/s, n/drinker, passionate, passive, Female who is a good lover, with a variety of colors, for erotic fun and passion. #15349

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COULD IT BE YOU? GBF, 36-ish, seeking a Lesbian friend. If we are right for each other a promising future is ahead for us. No Bi's. Please give me a call. (Detrloit) _17085

FUN-LOVING FEMALE, early-20s, sincere, honest. Seeking Female, for friendship. (Detroit) #16698

Tennessee

I'LL BE WAITING 29-year-old GBF, 5'4", 125 lbs., feminine, attractive, very sexy, down-to-earth, good-humored, enjoys the outdoors. Seeking PF 25+, medium build, down-to-earth, good-humored, for friendship, possible relationship. (Memphis) #21292

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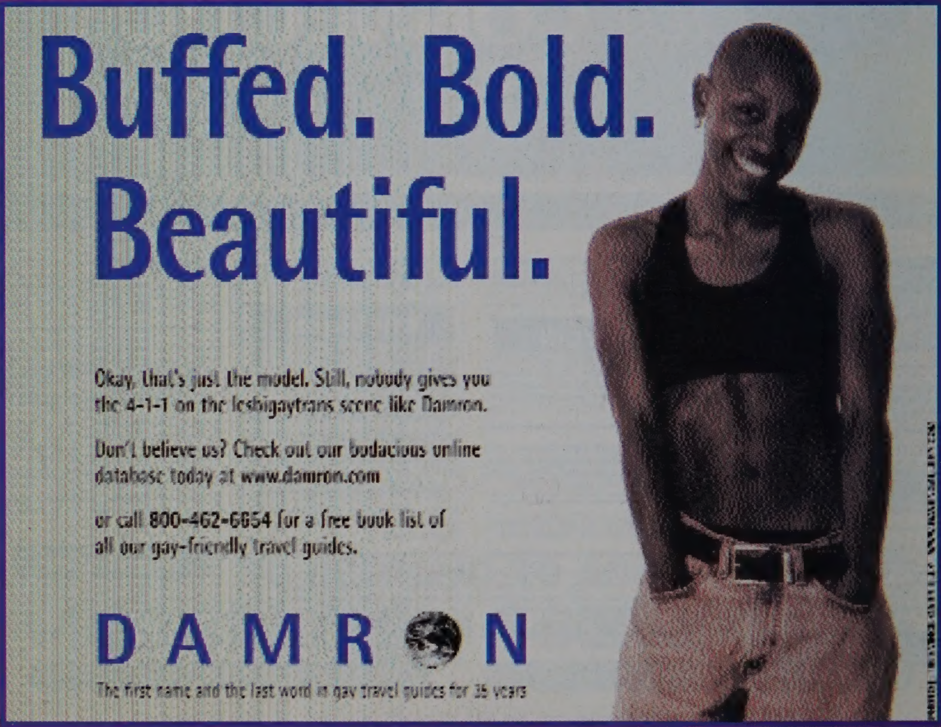

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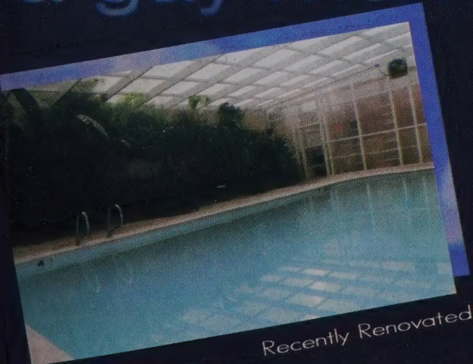

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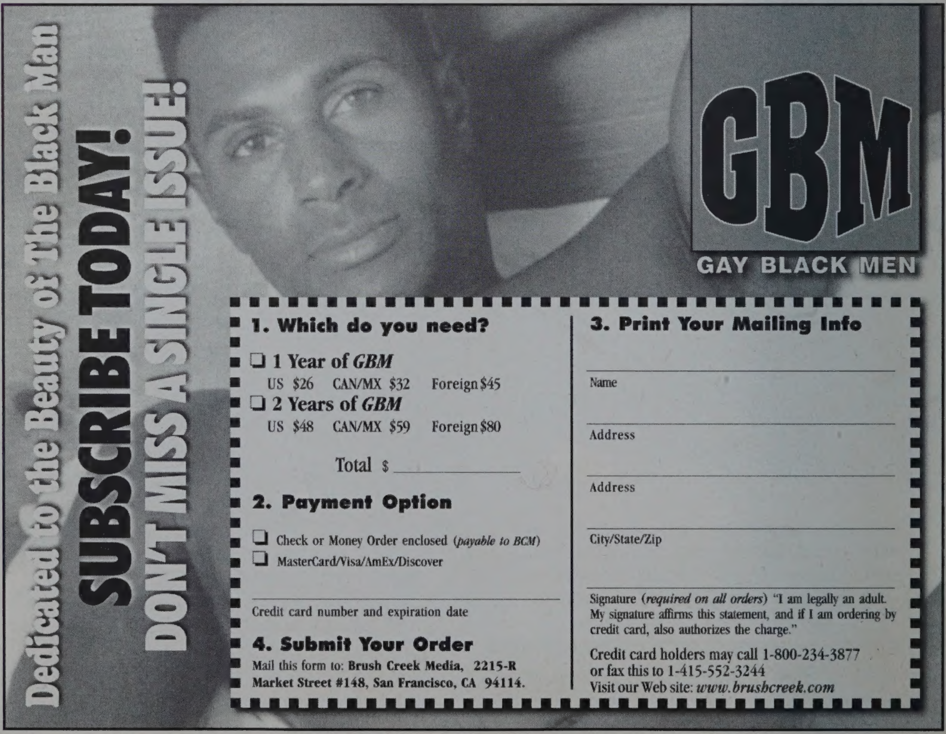

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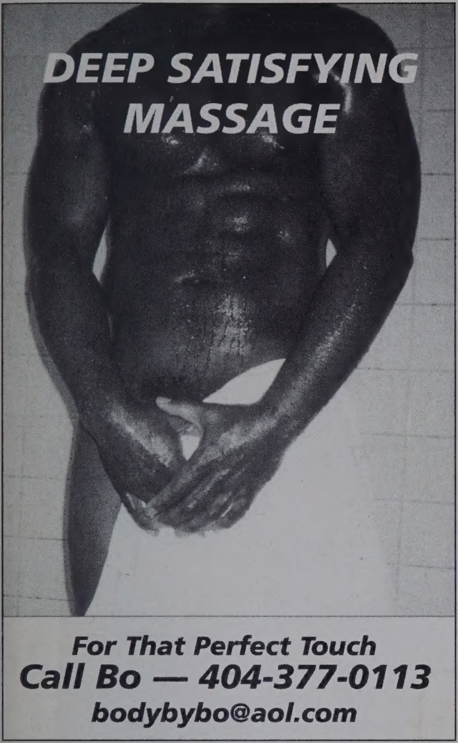

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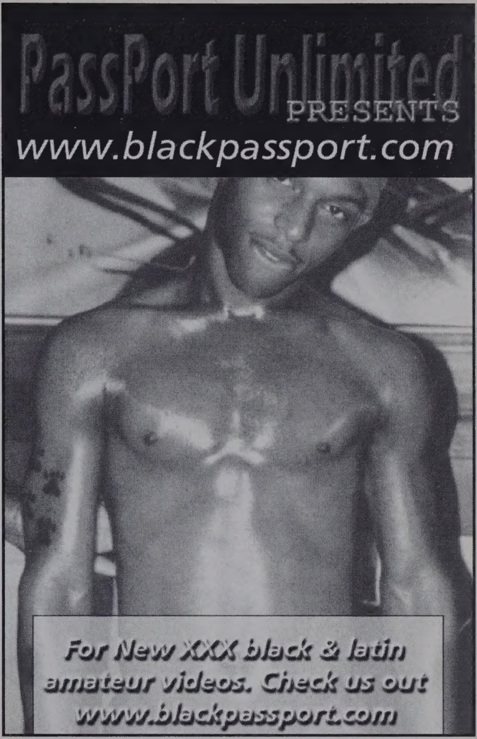

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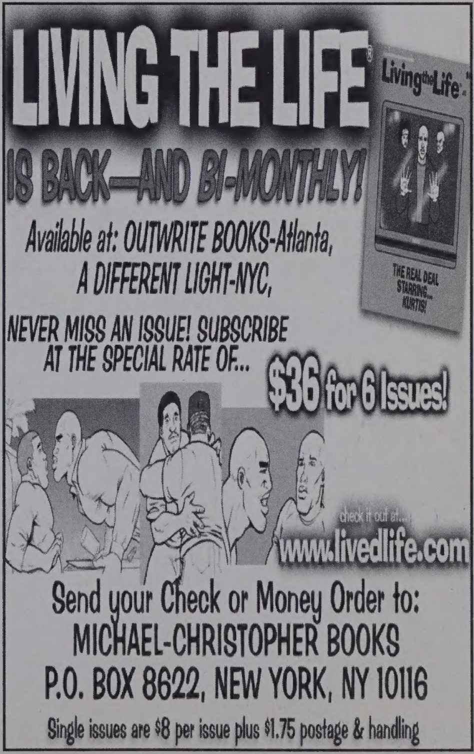
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Clikque MAGAZINE

Men Of Color Motivational Group Inc.

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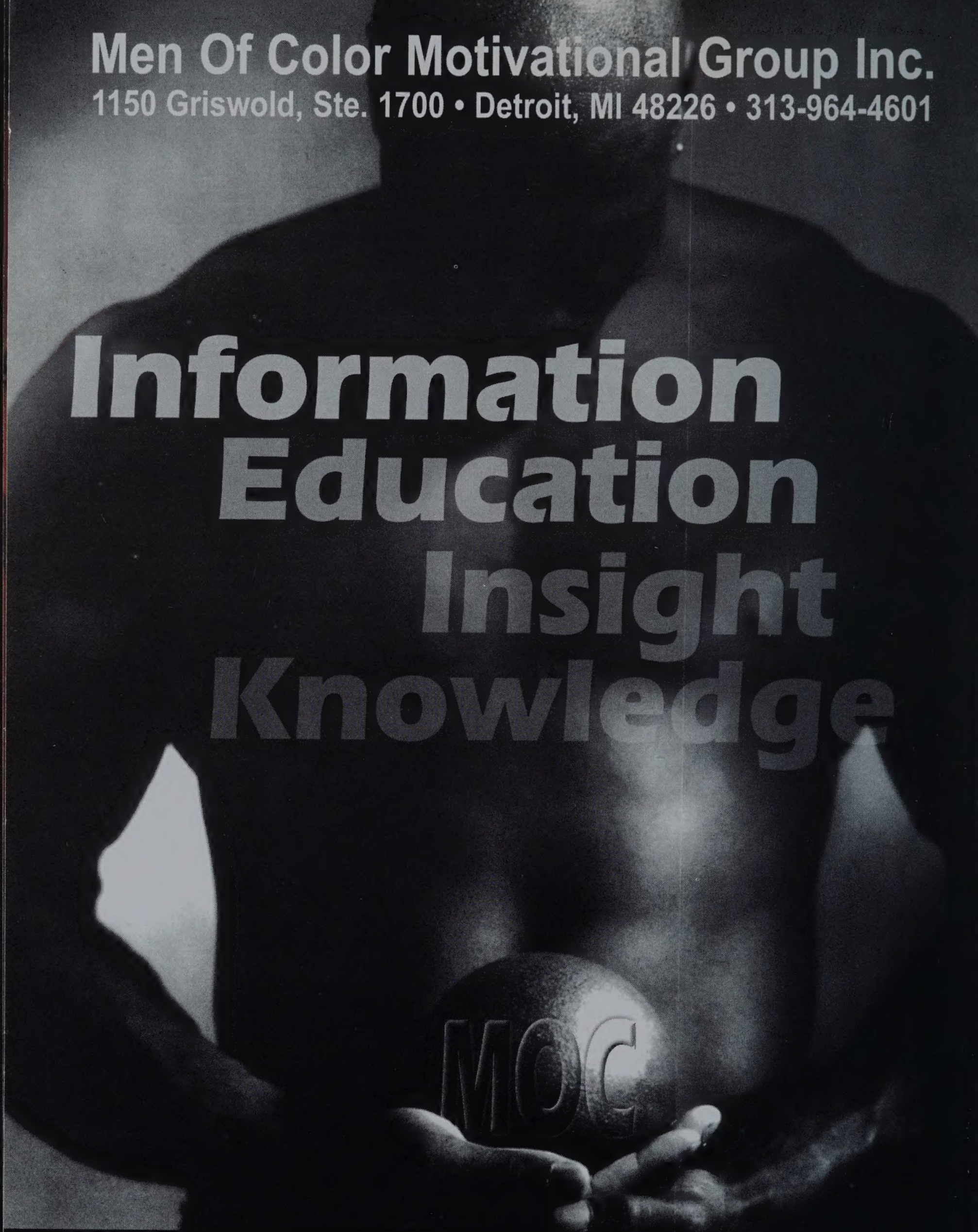

MEN OF COLOR MOTIVATIONAL GROUP INC. strives to empower African-American gay/bisexual/transgender men by providing information, education, insight, and knowledge on day to day issues in the African-American community. MOC advocates positive health strategies and non-biased information dissemination and education. Education and motivation of African-American men is our primary concern in order to bridge gaps of understanding and knowledge. We encourage openness, trust, and most of all mutual respect for one another.

Although the need of the African-American male is our primary focus, Men of Color welcome the participation of all community minded individuals. Our organization is equally aware of and sensitive to the needs of the community as a whole.

Components of our program include safer sex workshops, providing speakers for organizations and community outreach efforts, primary and secondary prevention case management and housing assistance programs, bars, and club outreach, material distribution and HIV/AIDS Peer Training, and HIV/AIDS Anonymous/Confidential Counseling and Testing.

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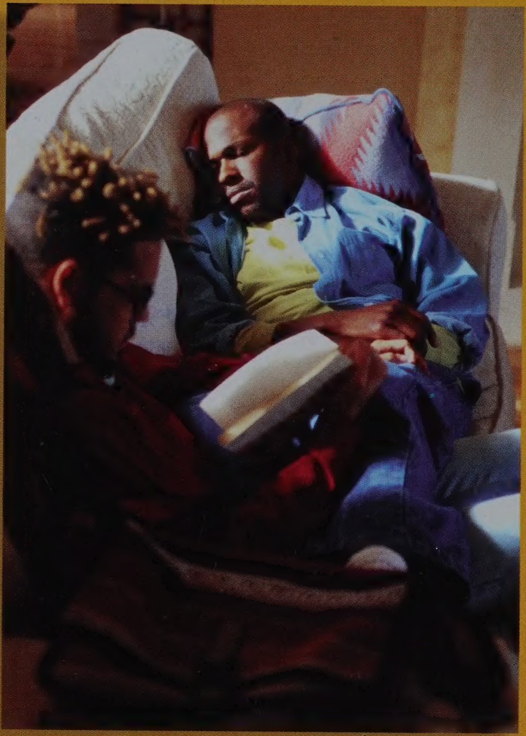

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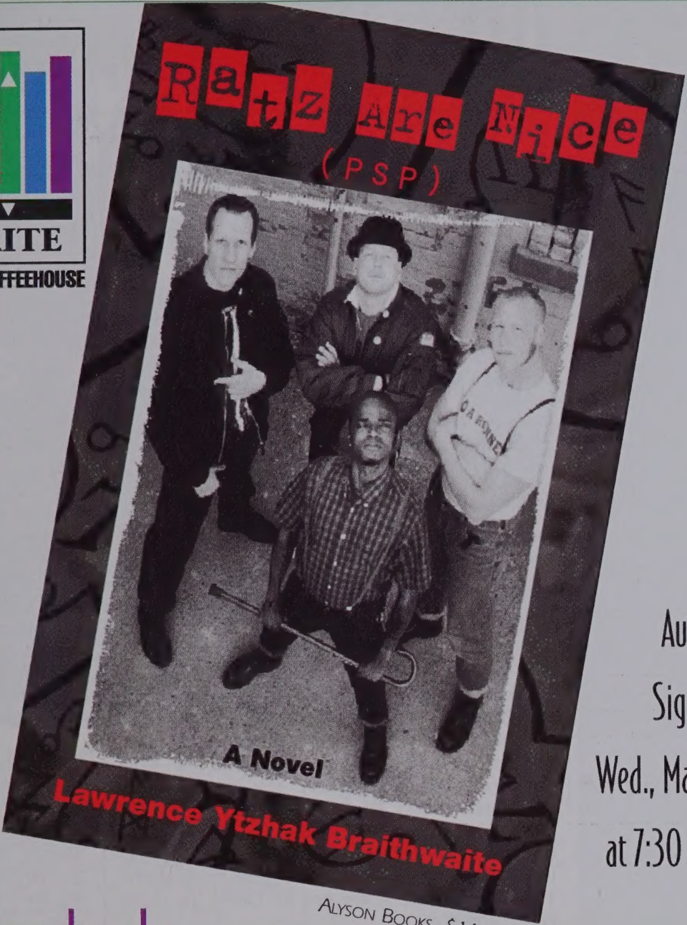
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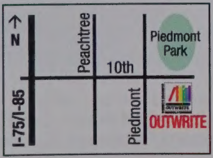
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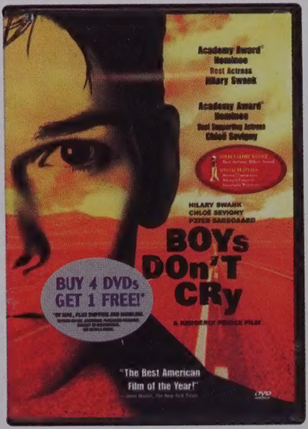
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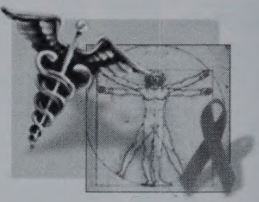
HIV/AIDS Editorial

Dateline: April 21, 2000; reporting from the Southwestern Front: Dallas, Texas. I had originally anticipated reporting to you this week from the Southeastern Front in Atlanta, Georgia. From April 17th through April 20th, the Centers for Disease Control, the National Minority AIDS Council and other HIV prevention provider entities conducted an HIV Prevention Capacity Building Conference for organizations that were given your tax dollars, in October of last year, to provide services to stem the tide of HIV in your communities. These organizations were funded under what is called the Congressional Black Caucus Initiative. At this time all I will say is that the jury is still out on this situation and we can expect some preliminary verdicts this time next year. Some will be found guilty of disservice to our communities; however, I believe that the majority will be acquitted by reason of outstanding service to our communities.



For those of us who are HIV infected taking antiretroviral medications has become an important component of our lives. Unfortunately, many African Americans initiate therapy in the latter stages of the disease process. This creates unnecessary problems. Sometimes people know that they are HIV infected and they chose not to start HIV antiretroviral therapy because of the challenges that are presented in taking the medications. The following are a few tips for taking the medicines properly:

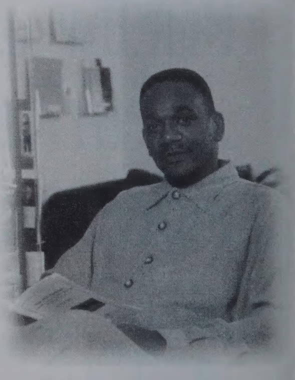
Talk with your doctor about your lifestyle before starting anti-HIV drug therapy. Your doctor might want to put you on a combination of drugs that will require you taking them several times a day. This might be hard for you, particularly if you are uncomfortable taking the drugs while at work or if you are forgetful. The combination of drugs you choose should be one that you can remember to take.

Make sure you understand how you are supposed to take the drugs you have been given. Which pills are you taking? Which ones do you have to take every eight hours? Which ones must be taken with food? What should you do if you have a bad side effect?

Turn to your family and friends for support. Remind a family member or friend that it's important that you take your anti-HIV drugs carefully and that you might need a little help. Let's say you are supposed to take one of your drugs at 2:00 every day. Have a family member or friend call you at work to remind you of this. This might be helpful when you first start taking anti-HIV drugs, at least until you get used to your medicine schedule.

Be honest with yourself and your doctor. Everyone misses doses of his or her anti-HIV drugs. It is nothing to be embarrassed about. But it's important to be honest with yourself and your doctor about the number of times you have missed a dose or did not take it correctly. You and your doctor can find ways to make your anti-HIV drugs easier to take, perhaps by setting up a reminder system or swapping the more difficult drugs for easier ones. The sooner you figure out what the problem is, the better.

The aforementioned are some suggestions and recommendations for helping those of us who must take anti-HIV medications. Making the choice to get on antiretroviral therapy is a daunting one. I was very reluctant to start taking medications. However, a falling CD4 count was the impetus that I needed to take the plunge. Being in an



By: Senior Staff Writer — Don Sneed
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HIV support group helped me to overcome the fear of daily dosing and possible side effects. I was able to talk with other HIV infected individuals who were on various anti-HIV regimens and discuss their experiences with the medications that they were on. They helped me to overcome my fears and trepidation. If you are not in a support group talk with friends who are on medications and see how they are doing.

In the battle against HIV and our fight for a life of longevity, knowledge is power. Many community-based organizations have access to information about the various medications that are available. Also you will be able to find people at these agencies that are HIV positive, in good health and on antiretroviral therapy. You will find them more than willing to share their experiences with you. Anti-HIV medications affect people differently. At our agency we see many clients doing well on Viracept in combination with other medications. Some clients do well on D4T, 3TC, and Combivir in combination with other drugs. Yet still others are doing well on Crixivan, Fortovase and Sustiva. Whichever medication you choose is up to you and your doctor. I cannot recommend which regimen would be best. When to start taking medicines is another matter that requires one working from a base of knowledge about self and the available medications. The choice is yours. Empower yourself and take charge of your healthcare. Until next month: may peace be with you my brothers and sisters. –CM–

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Over the past two years Clikque has been proud to introduce to our readers and supporters new and emerging artists. We have also been privileged with submissions from some of Gay Americans most prolific writers and artists. We have premiered poetry, short stories, reviews, biographies, and interviews. We want to take this space to thank all of our contributing writers, and aspiring writers/artists for giving to Clikque your very best. It is because of your offerings we have been able to grow into America's leading monthly magazine serving the African American GLBT/SGL community.

In that same tradition we have included several pieces from new writers, hoping to continue exposing writers/artists to our community. Enjoy!!!!

FALLING DOWN & GETTING UP

Leroy Braxton

I fell down, but with my lover by my side I got up. One day a pain hit me sharp in my stomach. I took over the counter medication for days and weeks, it eased the pain for awhile. I had been keeping my HIV status from my lover and we just didn't bring up the subject AIDS. In the beginning our passion caused us to to have unprotected sex. I loved him but how would we be this stupid to allow this.

The pain returned to my stomach and the medication, wouldn't stop it. My lover and I went to the emergency room. The doctor asked me if I was HIV positive. I got scared and told my lover to leave the room. I was scared if he find out he would leave me. I had known for years of my status. After the doctor and I talked I told the doctor to tell him to come back into in the room, so he could know I was sick. He took the news hard at the time but told me he would stand by my side.

I was real sick and not getting any better after leaving the emergency room. I knew something was not right. I asked a best friend for help, he referred me to a clinic that was for HIV/AIDS care. I went to the clinic and visited the doctor, he put me in the hospital. I was diagnosed with Gangrene, CMV, and a bad gall bladder. My lover was there with me everyday as I went through test after test. He even got a job close by, encouraging me to get strong.

I had surgery, the surgeon cleaned up my stomach, so that I might feel better. I remember I couldn't eat for weeks. I was released from the hospital but still not well because whenever I went somewhere a sharp pain would be in my stomach causing me to go to the nearest restroom. I went back to the doctor, he told me that it was the CMV in my stomach. I had to do chemotherapy for a month. I felt like I was being tortured.

With an IV line in my arm to take medication twice a day I was determine to keep pushing on and get my life back. Eventually I would go on job interviews with my arm wrapped to cover the IV line. My lover would be there to drive for me even after working two jobs. The medication was killing my white blood cells, my legs felt numb. After getting off the medication I felt better and the stomach pain was gone. All along the way my lover stayed by my side working hard and making tremendous sacrifices for both of us. I thank God for sending someone like this in my life.

After some time I got a new job, car, and started over in life. Then something happen that made me almost want to give up. My lover got pneumonia and died. I went to his funeral and felt climbing in the casket with him knowing what he had done for me, just wishing now that I could do something for him.

I'm happy he didn't have to suffer long, and all his troubles gone. I talked to him on the phone for the last time from the hospital. We made plans of his release from the hospital, they never happen. Today I'm glad to be alive, telling everyone if you have someone who loves you tell them, enjoy the moment's together because it could be short.

GAYESS OF BROTHERS

By Damian D. Price
(Contributing Poet)

Do I have to be loud and rude?
With a sign that says, "I'm Gay."
Or can I be a man with class, dignity-running things my way.
Do I have to pop my fingers and walk with a twist?
Or can I be a businessman on the fortune 500 list.
Do I have to sleep around, write hot checks and steal?
Or can I be a honest man, a workingman with a strong will.
Do I have to change men, as if they're underwear?
Or can I have a mate for life someone to love and care.

So they may say you're selling out, And, not being true to yourself.
Or that you're trying to be better than someone else.
But, you can be the Gayess man with some dignity,
And; never lose what you are, who you are,
Your true identity.
You can be the Gayess man and not be loud and rude,
Be the kind that I like a rough neck dude.
Or, if that's not who you are or what you want to be,
You can be that grandest of divas that's okay with me.

You can be the Gayess of Brothers, but just be faithful.
Cause in the end it's your life and you'll be thankful.
Don't get me wrong; I'm not trying to say,
Take who you are tuck it and hide it away.
But, when you walk out in the world and people stop and stare,
Make them think that's a man, a man with flare.
One with Grace, Style and Dignity.
One that's Grand, a Diva not sexuality.
One that will stop the negative connotations,
But spark positive conversation across the nation.

This is our race we have to run it.
This is our battle we have to fight it.
This is our goal we must win.
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"I GOT THE JOB"

Toska Palmer

Today was the day. I finally got the job interview with Katten, Muchen, Zavis. They were the top law firm in the city of Chicago. I had been turned down by them 3 other times. I was either too qualified or they were not hiring at the time. But this was it. My time to shine. I scheduled the interview for 3:00 p.m. during my lunch. There was really no need to take an entire day off work just for a 45 minute interview. I got to work in a great mood. I watched the clock all day. Finally it was 2:00. I ran to the washroom to change my pantyhose and freshen my make-up. I took one last look in the mirror and I was on my way. Katten, Muchen, Zavis here I come.

I got on the elevator and everyone on there could feel my Confidence. I was glowing with it. I walked out to the front of the building to hail a cab. A yellow one pulled right up and I jumped in. There was a woman already in the cab. I apologized for jumping in and not giving her the opportunity to get out. She said in a very soft and timid voice. I am not getting out, this cab driver is at the wrong stop. I said oh, I am sorry, I will just get another one. She said, no that's o.k. where are you going? I said to the Sears Towers. She said oh o.k. I am on my way in that direction. I don't mind sharing if you don't mind. With a smirk on my face and my brow lifted, I said seductively sure, I don't mind sharing. I got all the way in the cab, shut the door and told the cab driver..Sears Tower and that I needed to be there by 3:00. We sped off.

I introduced myself as Toskanelia and she said that her name was Mona. Mona was the epitome of class. You know what I mean.......A "Bitch" and you couldn't touch her. All of her shit was together. This was the type of woman that I would have to think twice about getting involved with because she wasn't taking none of the bullshit that I was used to dishing out...or so I thought....Mona said in a very stern voice... so what does Toskanelia mean? I said, well in Spanish it means tuff. She said oh...tuff huh? I said yes...tuff. Mona seemed a little tense and I knew exactly what she needed. Mona said that she was named after her grandmother who was her idol....I nodded in agreement with her statement. There was dead silence when the cab driver goes...DAMN..the bridge.

We got stuck right in front of the bridge. There goes being on time for my interview. While I was in thought, Mona says softly, can I ask you a question? I said sure. She said, I know that I don't know you and I don't want you to take offense to what I am about to say. So I said, don't worry about it hurting me, go ahead and ask. She said in her timid voice " are you a lesbian?" With a look of disbelief on my face, I said very sternly "why do you ask? Is it

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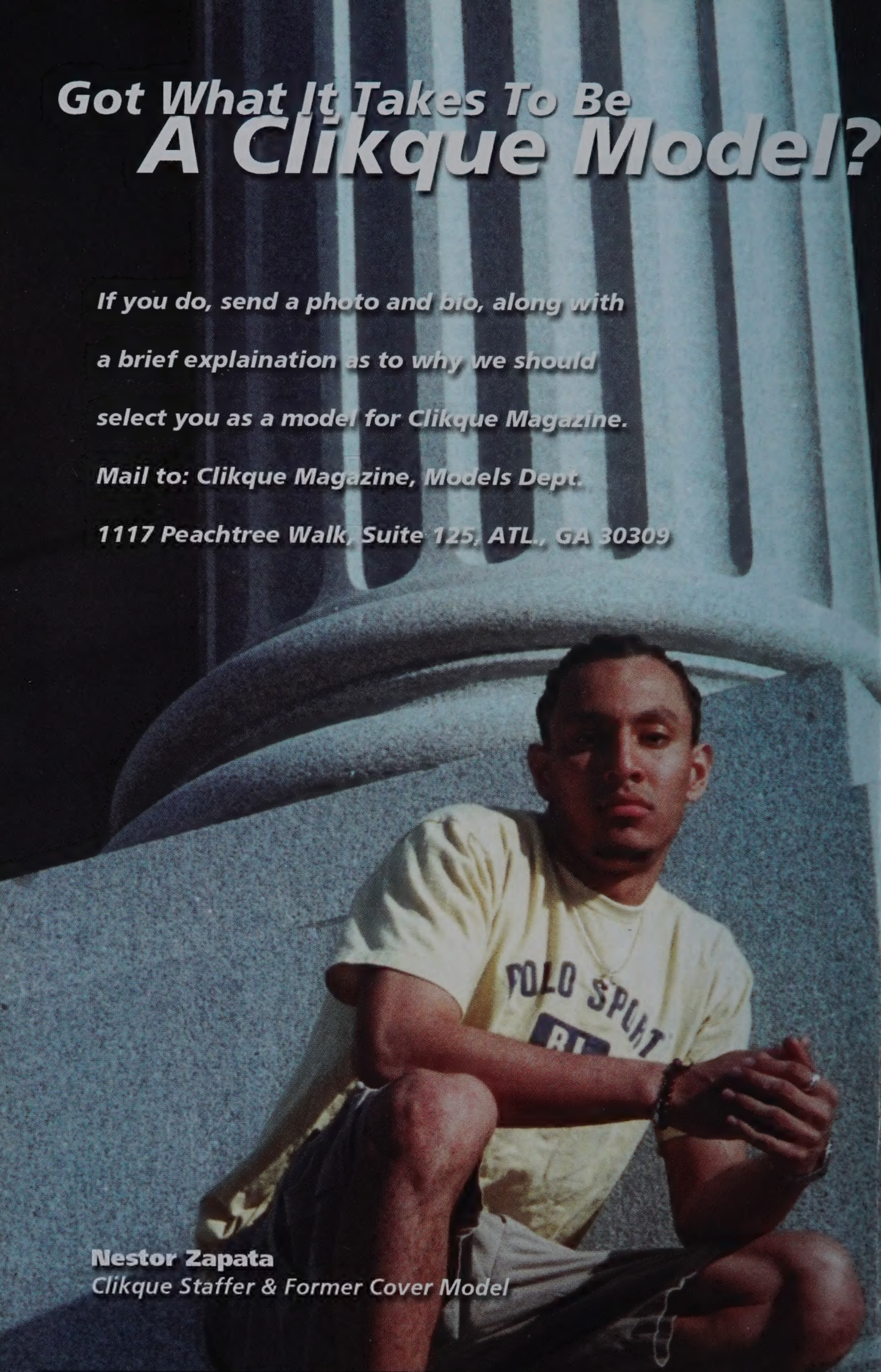

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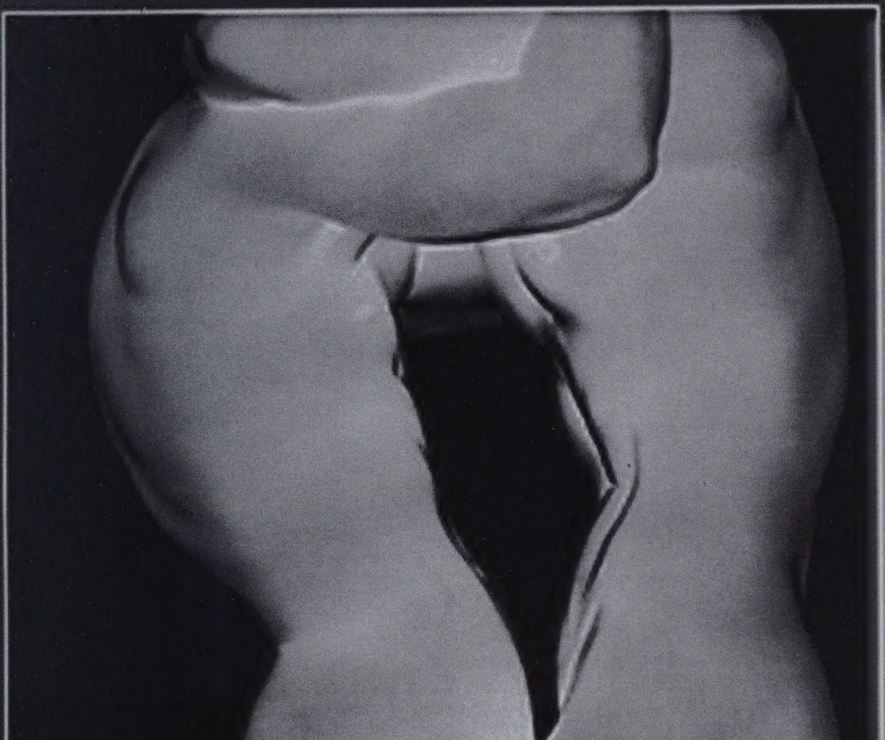

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Exposed Continued From Page 13

something I said, or something that I have done. She said oh no, I just hear all the time that women that wear short hair are usually lesbians. I said oh, o.k. So you are stereotyping? She said no....oh well I guess I am. So I said, in a devilish voice... Most women that ask that question are usually curious. Mona says, well maybe a little bit. I said, so what are you curious about? Mona said that she was too embarrassed to tell me, but that if I gave her a minute to get up the nerve she would.

Before Mona could say anything, I forcefully slid my tongue down her throat. Mona tried to pull away from me, but I knew that she was only doing it just to make herself feel good and not to feel so easy to me. I kissed her on the neck and whispered in her ear...is this what you want Mona? Sliding my tongue around her earlobe and on the side of her kneck, I said....is this what you dream about Mona? You want me to fuck you ....Mona..huh? Is this what you want? We kissed passionately for a while but it turned into lust when Mona said yes. I looked out of the corner of my eye and saw the cab driver looking through the mirror, but he never said a word. I could feel Mona sticking her tongue down my throat. Slowly but surely she was letting go. She was no longer afraid. I took my finger and stuck it in Mona's mouth and told her to suck it. We both sucked on my finger like it was a dick. I could tell Mona liked to get fucked just by the way she twirled her tongue around my finger. I whispered softly, do you have some good pussy? Mona didn't say a thing. But I could tell that her pussy was on fire. She was just waiting for me to touch it. I asked her again, "Mona do you have some good pussy? Mona said in a moaning type of voice...I don't know". I said you don't know, huh? Why don't you know if you have good pussy?

Mona didn't say anything. I stuck my hand under Mona's skirt, ripped a whole in the side of her stockings...and rammed my middle finger up her pussy. I went in and out as fast as I could for about 3 minutes and then I slowed down. Mona was breathless. I could feel her trembling, I rammed my fingers inside her again. I asked Mona again.... "do you have some good pussy", but before she got a chance to answer, I pulled my finger out of her panties and stuck it in her mouth. Mona, do you have some good pussy, I said while I sucked her finger. Damn, Mona's juices were so sweet that you could bottle the shit. Mona said softly, do you have some good pussy Toska while she rubbed my titties. I said "I don't know , maybe you should be the judge of that."

We started kissing ruff this time. It was on. I grabbed Mona's skirt pulled it up, tore her pantyhose off and turned her on her stomach. I slid my tongue into Mona's ass and stuck my fingers into her pussy. Licking and sucking, sucking and licking, Mona moaned while I tore into her ass. She wanted to be fucked by a woman and she was getting just that. Suddenly the bridge goes down and the traffic starts moving. Mona screams....oh shit...I'm cumming...bitch you fucked me, oh shit, you fucked me. Gasping for air, we started to fix out clothes. The cab driver pulls in front of the Sears Towers. I go to pull out cash and the cab driver refuses my money. I got out of the cab and into the doors. I look back and Mona is still sitting there. I don't have any more time to waste because I am already late for my big interview. Finally the cab pulls off, but I didn't see Mona in it. Where did she go, I thought. I get on the elevator, ride up to the 34th floor. I tell the receptionist that I have a 3:00 appointment with a recruiter. I sat quietly, panties soaking, pussy on my lips and fingers. The receptionist comes out to the lobby to take me to the interview room. I sat waiting patiently for 15 minutes. I knew that I had blown it. I was late and for what. It was my big break. I had been waiting for this moment for 3 years. Finally the door opens, I stand up, turn around to greet the interviewer....It's Mona. She smiled, I smiled. I GOT THE JOB!

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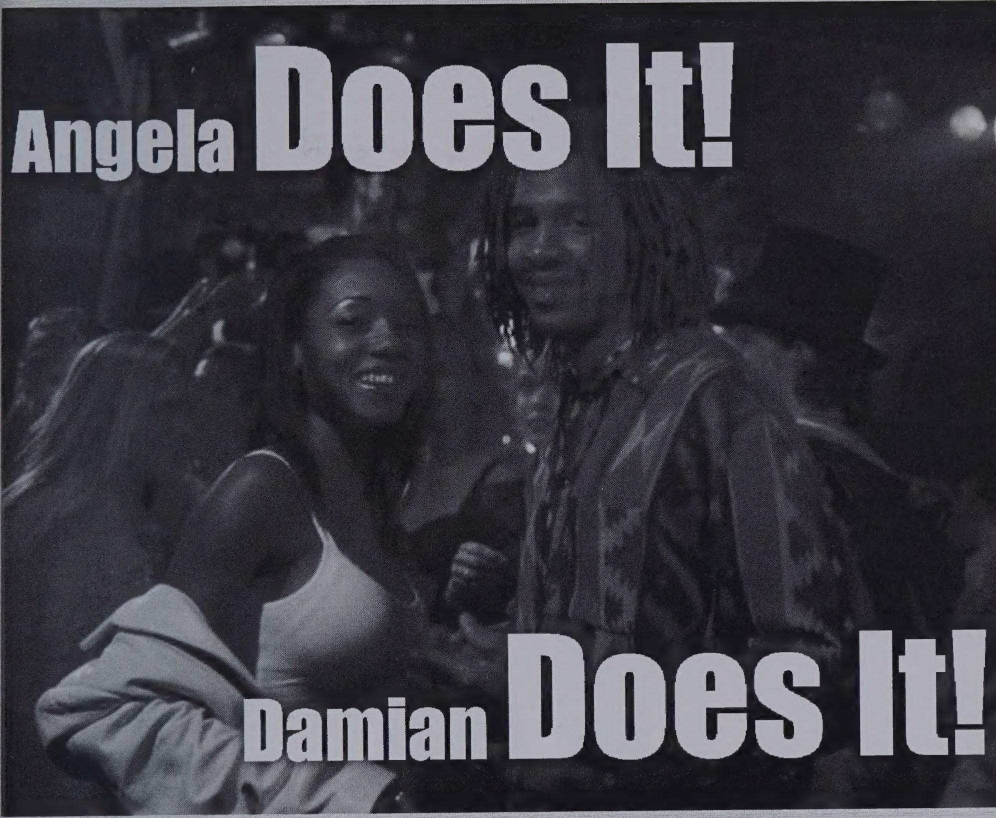
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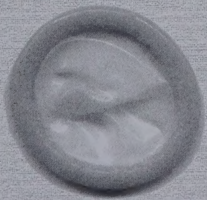

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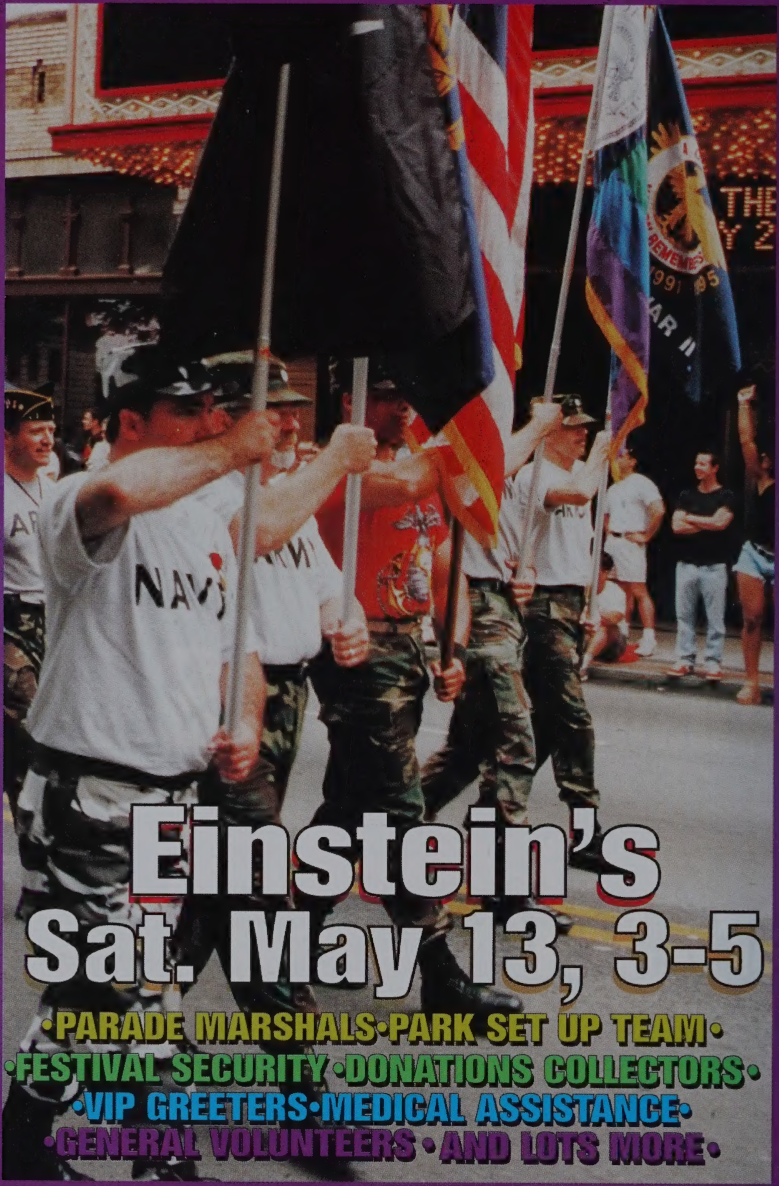

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Exposed Continued From Page 16

"LOCUSTS"

By: Fiona L. Zainde

"Is the world really coming to an end?"
Aya asked the question of no one in particular as she sat up in the middle of the large bed, turning her head to stare at the windows as if she could see through the heavy curtains to the chaos that the TV reporter described. The Bay Area's news knock-out, Nedda Stone, was quickly replaced by the shot of a man running into a 7-11 to escape a shower of chattering locusts and blinding rain. Nedda's voice continued:

"Many are referring to the unexpected appearance of the locust swarm as the Holy Rain; a sign that the world is indeed coming to an end. Back to you, Thad."

At the prompt, an attractive middle-aged man appeared on the screen. He tapped his pen against the news desk and managed to look worried.

"Thanks, Nedda. Now let's go to the weather bureau for an update."

The thick comforter fell away from Aya's shoulders as she reached over to nudge the stirring lump beside her, "Did you hear that?"

Maxine, her partner of nearly three years, blinked sleep-laden eyes at the television set. Less than a second later she was wide-awake, yawning and pulling at the covers. Her muscled body stretched and moved against Aya's softer one.

"Yeah. I heard the same thing yesterday too." Maxine rolled over and pushed the curtains aside. "It does look like the end of the world out there."

The rain was coming down in sheets, screaming down from the sky and bringing with it hordes of locusts. Some of the insects were dead, beaten into the dirt by pellets of water, but a few had escaped to their porch and were hopping around on the rattan chairs and sliding across the wet tiles to nest in the potted plants farthest from the downpour. Maxine flinched away from the window as a grasshopper's broken body slammed into the glass before her face and slid to the ground in a pulpy green and brown mess.

"How can you just stand there and be so calm?" Aya trembled from her spot in the middle of the bed, forgetting for the moment that Maxine was always calm. Aya's voice lowered to a whisper. "Shouldn't we call the police or something?"

The curtains fell into place as Max rolled back into her warm spot. She used the remote to turn off the television before snuggling down into the pillows.

"What can they do? Squash the bugs? I think we should just stay put and wait for the storm to die down. Afterwards, who knows?" She slid her palm over Aya's foot. It was freezing. "Come back under the covers. You'll feel better."

After a moment's hesitation Aya joined her. They spooned together, with Max gently stroking her lover's stomach and murmuring softly against her ear.

"Don't worry." She kissed her shoulder. "The house is locked up tight. Nothing's going to get in here."

Aya's trembling gradually lessened, then stopped altogether. She put her hand over Maxine's and closed her eyes. The two women lay in silence, listening to the steady growl of the wind and the slap of rain and tiny bodies against the roof.

WITHOUT YOU

Octavis "Ron" Wright

Things are not the same
We're growing apart
We're both to blame
The joy we once felt
Turns into sorrow
As I hope and pray
For a better tomorrow
Communication here is lost
The good times are what it cost
Constant anger and attitude
We've both become very rude
I miss you so much
It doesn't have to be this way
We can work it out
It'll be okay
I'm sorry for what I've put you through
I love you so much
And you know it's true
Having you means everything
If we work together
We can accomplish anything
I'll be there forever and always
This is a promise for the rest of my days
I love and trust you with all my heart
Living isn't complete if we're apart
You take my hand...
As we both take a stand
Now things are the same
We work together
And look what became.

NO NEED FOR DRAMA

By M. Liz Marshall
staff writer

Have you ever had a great mental, spiritual and sexual connection with one of your lovers? Yet, in spite of the stark connectedness the union was consistently plagued with chaotic, inexplicable interludes that you knew were unhealthy? Well that's what I intend to discuss and examine within the content of this article.

In the recesses of my mind lurid memories of my yesterdays, where I have been, and ultimately where I am destined to get through arduous effort. It is my sincere belief that there is an answer, there is a means to fostering a healthy relationship devoid of numerous dramatic instances. After all, those of you who have experienced that which I am making reference to realize that love can only endure so much and then, it's time to bounce! So, without further ado, let's delve into this head on.

Often, I receive telephone calls from various friends and associates regarding relationship woes; as I listen reflectively, I attempt to analyze their situations. In my moments of accessing their plight, I can't help but relate due to my previous failures that I have both learned and grown from. Believe this, my brothers and sisters, if we fail to learn from our mistakes, we cease to grow as individuals. Self introspection and self-knowledge are necessary oxygen to the soul. Why wait for someone else to point out your strengths or weaknesses in certain areas? Look within and be real with yourself! Now, I have arrived at the place in this article where I find it necessary to offer my disclaimer. I am not an expert, I just believe in dissection and eamest scrutiny of small matters in order to arrive at the larger picture.

It seems that as human beings, our ineptness to look inwardly always wreaks havoc once we become involved with others in intimate settings. Consider this, how much drama could manifest in a relationship when both parties actually own up to the part that they may have played in a particular mishap? After all, none of us are children, we are adults. If I do something that is inconsiderate, immature, or just downright wrong; we all know when we are wrong, y'all, why should someone have to highlight that for you?

In actuality, we should be able to avoid the blame game and be big enough to say that I accept responsibility for the role I played in whatever has occurred. Recognize that everything won't be splendid all of the time, but strive to achieve as much harmony as possible. Our world is different from that of our heterosexual counterparts. We have a harder way to go right from the jump; we should be trying to make it lighter on ourselves. If you disagree with me, that's fine but you cannot negate the fact that we don't have the same rights, the same protection, or even receive the same degree of respect when it comes to society's perspective of our unions.

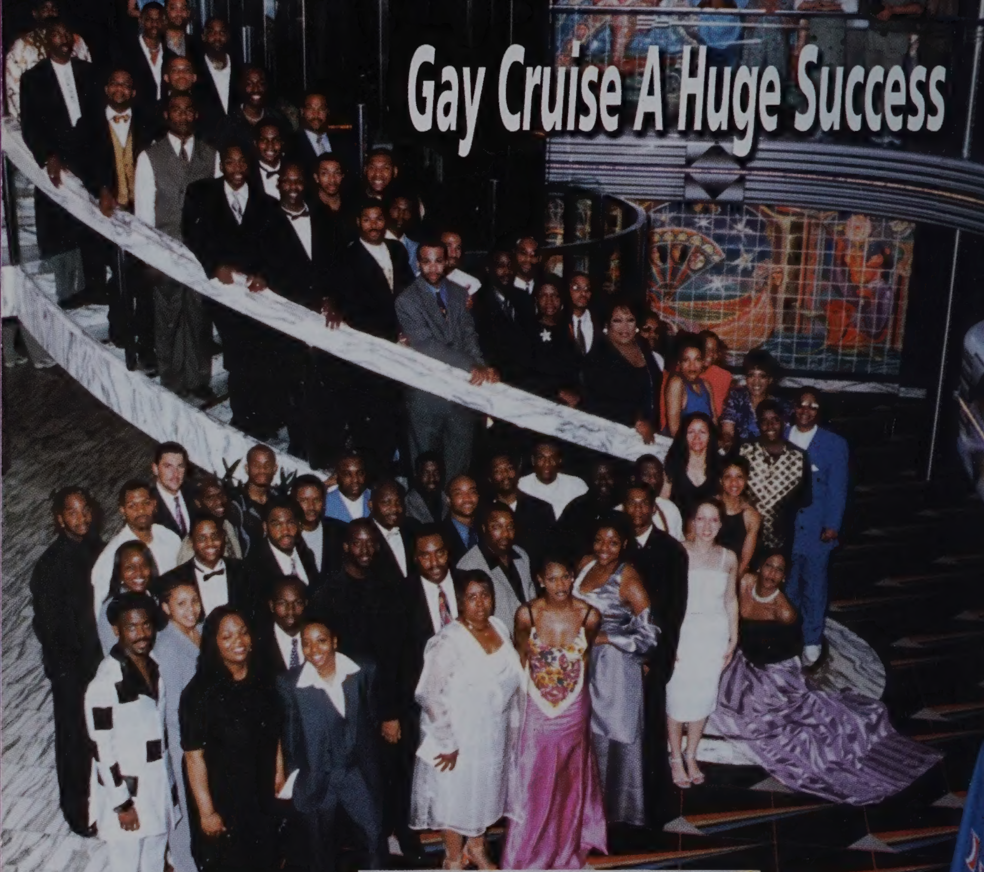
So, let's constantly seek to achieve a better life and work on "us," both individually and corporately. Nothing is unattainable when you set your hand to the plow and choose not to look back. Life is full of enough transitional difficulties and our relationships don't have to be added to the list. in closing, check yourself before you point the finger at others and be mindful of the fact that drama like anything else happens as a result of your actions and mine. I wish you a peaceful journey. Until next time, peace!

"YOU"

By Jean M. Norris

You whisper sweet things in my ear
You tell me you love me and you'll always be there
In the name of love
As years go by the love has changed
Instead of joy you bring me pain
In the name of love
You once wanted to protect me
Now it's you that wants to fight me
In the name of love
I say let's break up and maybe be friends
You say no, you're staying and pushing out this trend
In the name of love
So we begin to argue and say mean stuff
That's not what love is
This life is too rough
In the name of love

Gay Cruise A Huge Success



To our adoring cruise participants:

It has long been the dream of One Life Productions, Inc. to provide exciting activities and excursions to share with the Gay and Lesbian community. The Fantazie 2000 to Nassau, Bahamas challenged everyone to reach and embrace his or her dreams, passions, and lifestyle. The overwhelming responses, words of encouragement, and participation during this campaign were soothing to our soul. I would like to thank each person for your presence, participation, and comments.

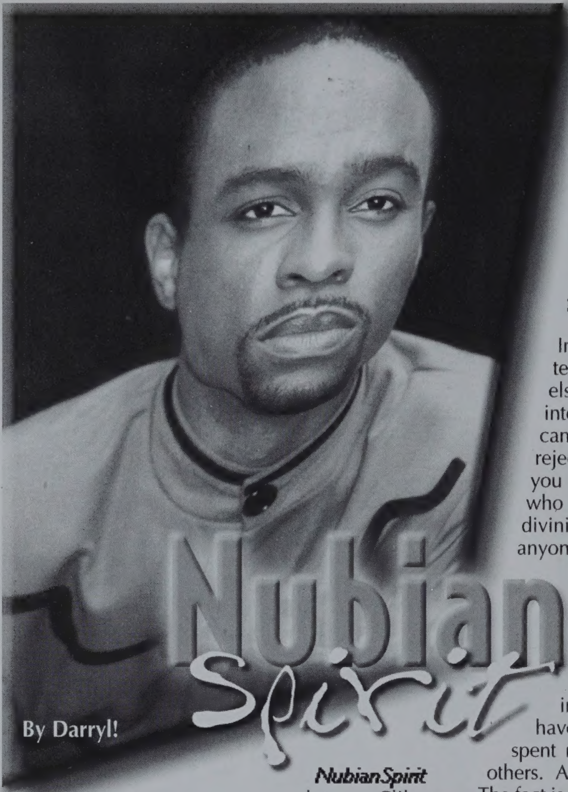
In addition, we would like to especially thank: Moonlight Cruises, Clikque Magazine, SSI Productions, DJ Sedric, Sophia McIntosh, Dominique Rashad, Necole Luv Dupree, Stasha Sanchez, Simply Devonaire, Diamonte Starr, and Monty St. James.

Remember, we can make it happen!

Imagine 2001..........

Sincerely, One Life Productions, Inc.

AIRFORCE
05



Nubian Spirit

By Darryl!

NubianSpirit salutes Clikque Magazine: Dwight Powell, staff, and writers/artists on their 2nd Anniversary. I am proud to be associated with such fine talent and calibre of artists who contribute to Clikque and all that the magazine represents. Happy Anniversary to my very special Clikque family- nationwide.

In the spirit of anniversaries and birthdays let's take some time to reflect. At the dawn on this century many of us probably made really grand resolutions or often we make similar kinds of promises to ourselves and loved ones on birthdays and anniversaries. Our intentions are usually honest and good but somehow along the way we lose sight of the intent and focus only on the goal. As a result we become convinced that we must meet that outcome or we will have failed ourselves or our loved ones. But it may serve us better to reflect on the meaning and purpose behind the promise or resolution. It is here that we find our real motivations and can seek peace of mind as we navigate toward the outcome we expected or the natural result of the attempt (or lack there of).

2ND YEAR ANNIVERSARY • COLLECTOR'S EDITION • MAY 1998-MAY 2000 • Clikque MAGAZINE

What was it that you promised yourself (or someone else)? Take a moment to gather it in your mind's eye. Now take a few more moments to consider what you really wanted by making the pledge. Now consider it again and follow me on this. If your resolution was to mend your relationship with your family, was it to have a better relationship and regain the interconnectedness you either had or always desired or was it to finally gain acceptance? You see the real motivation will ultimately determine your successfulness in achieving your initial goal. If you want to be better, get better, have better, do better, or live better then the internal motivations must be rooted in acceptance and recognition of your greater good.

In other words, you cannot try to seek better if your "better" is contingent on someone else accepting or respecting you. If your internal motivation is based on that then you can be easily discouraged because someone rejects you or your greater good. However, if you start from a place of total acceptance of who you are, the good that you are, and the divinity of your essence then regardless of what anyone else says or does you will not give up until that goal is reached (or proven impossible).

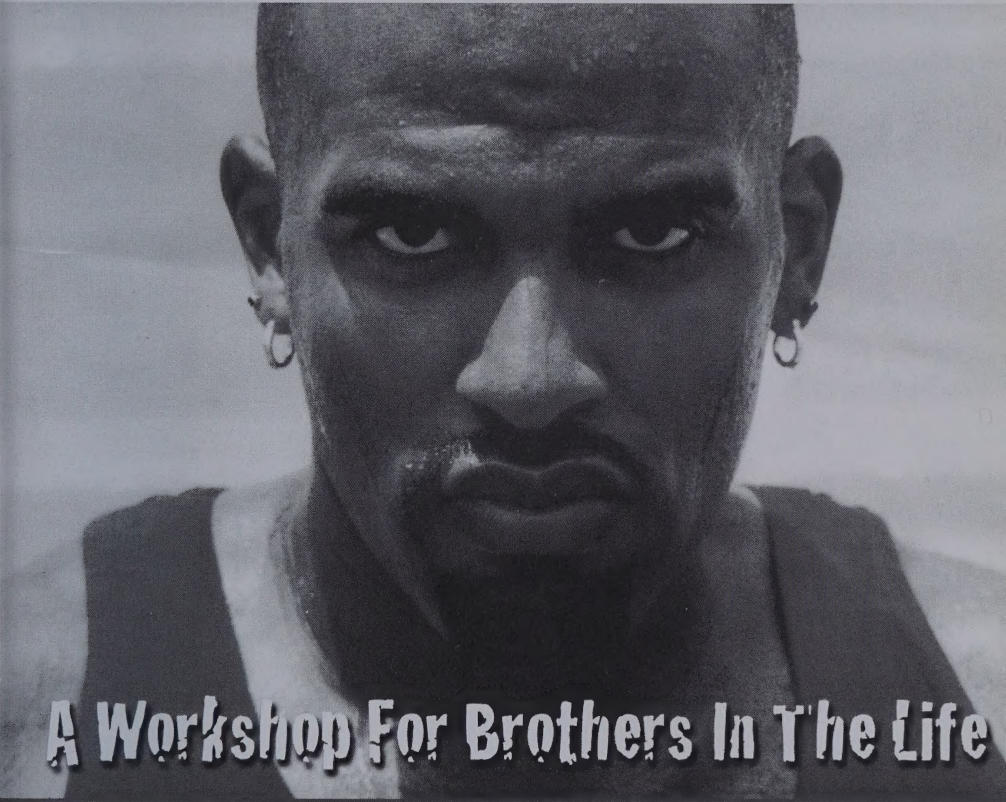
My sisters and brothers, that that you are can only be validated by the spirit that is in you. Outside acceptance can be fleeting and conditional. It is of course great to have people love, accept, and respect you. I spent many many years seeking approval from others. And I often find myself falling into this trap. The fact is that no matter how hard I tried that acceptance was never genuine, because at anytime I could do or say something that would negatively impact that acceptance. However, when I found out that there is no greater good for me than what is already in me, it did not matter what others thought but that I strive to reach my best at all times.

So once you accept yourself and love yourself (all of you, even the parts you would rather hide or erase) then nothing that attacks you can prevail. There is no power greater than love and if you harness love inside of you then what can stand against that power? Think about it. So again, take some time reflecting on your resolutions and promises. Celebrate your anniversaries and birthdays throughout the year by assessing your motivations making sure that you are motivated by the greatness that is in you and is you. Be strong and encouraged. You can achieve your goals, and if by some happenstance you do not reach your goal it does not mean you've failed because you are none the worse for the attempt. It may mean that you have to continue towards this goal and continue evaluating your intent and stay focused.

Remember: Live in love and let love live in you, through you, and around you. Peace and Blessings.

—CM—

we go deep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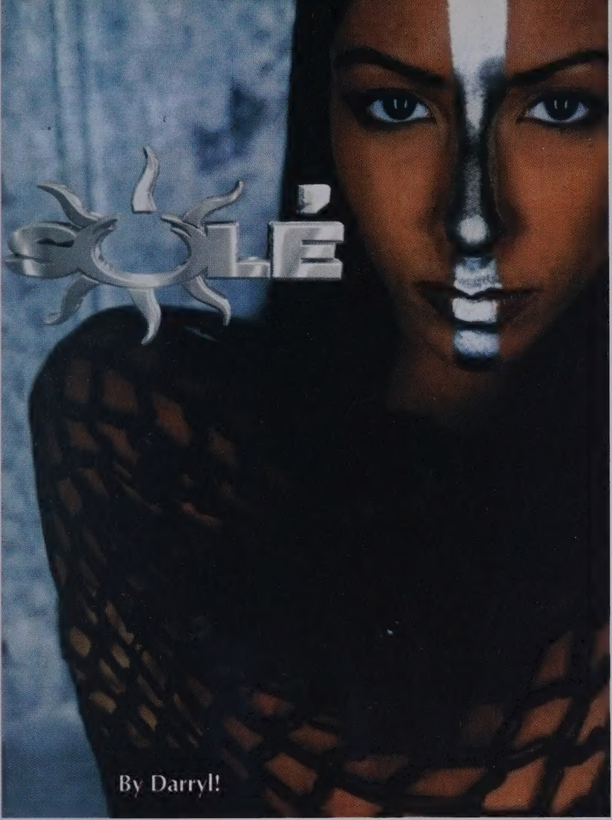


By Darryl!

Solé: Mother, Career and Love an exclusive interview with Solé, the latest on motherhood, her career, and an end to the rumors of her relationship with Ginuwine.

We spoke to the Solé from her home in New York. Solé is scheduled to be one of the featured entertainers at Clikque's Tampa Jamz, June 9-11. The mother of two beautiful daughters, Dejan and Cypress, was very warm and friendly as we talked about her life, career, and love. During the interview she became increasing more relaxed and trusting allowing us to get closer to the woman who, in honor of her heritage gives a Native American chant, "Iy, Yi, Yi, Iy, Yi, Yi...," in her popular song "I YiYi." Her debut album Skin Deep, is an anthology of her perserverence, dedication, and faith in herself and her talent.

Solé is a very passionate woman who has been entertaining all of her life. She began, as many of us have, demanding that her family watch her antics and provide and audience for whatever performance she had prepared. She reflects on her childhood stating she often would round up the neighborhood kids and get them to put on little productions, puppet shows, and other performances. She also remembers always having to prove to someone that she could do... whatever she said she could do. From singing to rapping, dancing to acting, Solé's life would be a constant challenge of defying the odds and proving that she was serious about her art and talent. Challenges that she has met with pride and tenacity bringing her to this place in her destiny.

Solé states, currently "I'm really trying to balance being a mother and have my career... reading for some parts in some movies... it's a lot of work. I'm out on the road doing spots both paid and promotional for radio stations... looking to do a tour this summer there are some options but nothing is set."

Solé's **Skin Deep** album is a mixture of self discovery, reflection on society, and sexual expression. She declares that "I wrote everything on my album. Only four songs were collaborations, that was because I was on a time schedule." Solé collaborated with The Associates: Mr. Raja, O (Misery), Lo, and Pop on three songs and with Tech 9 on "Ain't Nobody." She is quick to affirm her own prowess as a songstress and writer,"the album is for the most part all me and all my ideas."

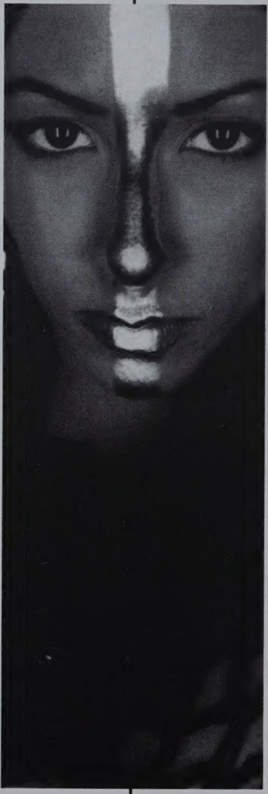
With a message in the madness Solé wanted to convey to her critics and listeners, through her music, was "most importantly, I want to convey the strength in women.. I'm trying to be uplifting and let them know that

Sole Continues On Page 26

Sole Continued From Page 25

they can go through different bad situations, things, or people who may be trying to hold you back, but you can still come out on top and still do all the things you aspire to do regardless of the situation you may be in presently."

Solé means "sun" and it is the warmth and power of the sun that Solé dishes out in her tunes, raps, and in live performance. She states "I have always wanted to be a singer. My mother was a singer with Bloodstone. As far back as I could remember I have wanted to entertain people. Since kindergarten I was doing shows, puppet shows and making my brothers and my mother sit down and watch me. My oldest brother used to rap and dj parties at home and at our block parties. I wanted to do what they were doing.



Solé remembers that as a youngster she would write down the latest and most popular songs/raps then go home and rewrite the material to fit her style and personality. She admits that her early raps were fairly light because she had not lived or gone through anything. The song "My Adidas" became "My Mikita," about her cat Mikita. "I started writing at 13 and re writing other peoples stuff. At age 15 we started a group called Divine, me and my best friend- we did talent shows and eventually began opening up for other people like Whodini, EPMG, DJ Quik, and others."

Then Solé, with her best friend, (and as the group Divine) won a trip to the 1989 BRE convention. It was there that her spark would flare and her career would begin to take flight. "We met people there including LL Cool J and Russel Simmons. " Solé recounts proudly that "LL kept in touch, he was giving us information on the industry, business tips, and helping me write over the phone." The following year would prove to be Solé's proving ground. "In 1990 we went back (BRE convention) and got a deal- Run DMC's people had something to do with the label (it was a small label) but I cannot remember exactly what.... My father was managing us at the time and we did not sign the deal because we were underage and they did not feel it was a good deal."

Disappointed but not broken Solé states that she moved on from that experience. "I stopped performing for 6 years 1991-1997, went to college, and had two daughters during this time." Of course after this statement we wanted to know what was going on with her relationships. Sole states she is "not married or dating." With a slight chuckle she then proclaims "I'm emphatically single and looking." Heartily she laughs and plays with a friend who is not so happy with that statement. Suddenly without notice a very sexy deep voice interrupts the phone call. It is Ginuwine, breaking into the call he claims her as his own, expressing his love for her. Ginuwine states "she goes with Ginuwine.. this is Ginuwine... dude she goes with me...ahhh, yeah."

They laugh and tease each other, almost forgetting they are on an interview... Solé says, "stop," as she screams and laughs "I'm on an interview... see they're going to print that." Ginuwine states "yeah that's right print that,...they better print that..." she laughs and responds "I'm looking for a man who is not ashamed and does not get on the radio and lies and says we're not together." Solé threatens to call the station next time and expose him. Later he can be heard saying "I love you..." and telling her to tell him she loves him too, which she does. It was clear from the playfulness they shared as we talked that these two really do care for each other. With Solé's protective nature regarding her children, this is probably no publicity game or entertainment tryst. That's right you got the confirmation here from Clikque first Solé and Ginuwine are a couple.

Not just all fun and games Solé also has a social conscious and states that the Black community needs to take a more active stance in the irradiation of HIV/AIDS in our community. She notes that there have ben problems along the way that has allowed the virus to ravage our community. She pauses and then states "it's real sad and scary and people probably still look at it as only a gay man's disease... they look at people and stigmatize them and look at them as if they are dirty..." She feels that somehow these same people "feel they are invincible and they cannot get it. But any of us can get it. I think...I feel that there might be a cure but that there is so much money to be made from treating it ...so why would they treat it."

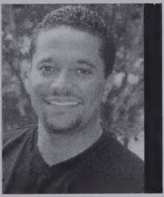
Sole Continues On Page 83

Perception V. Reality

A friend of mine recently told me about a friend of his that said that he knew me. This person went on to say how shady I am and how I am so stuck up and so on. After some insistence on my part my friend finally revealed this persons name. Guess what? I have no clue who this person is. It absolutely amazes me how people run around saying that they know someone that maybe they have met once or they have had a conversation with in the club or they have been introduced to in the mall while 6 other people are standing there being introduced also. These circumstances do not by any means constitute "knowing someone". I met someone that wrote a letter to the magazine and I called this person back to thank him for his letter. We started talking and about half way through our conversation he said to me that he had seen me out and had always wanted to talk to me. I asked him why he had not approached me and he said (1) that my friends were always around me and (2) that he felt like he needed to have everything together. I asked him what he meant by he needed to have everything together. He said that when he saw me he always felt like I was together and he could not come over and strike up just any conversation with me. What he had not realized is that I actually am a very silly person. He, of course, realizes it now. He says now that he cannot believe how silly I am and how he thought those things about me.

It is so interesting how people have a certain perception of others without knowing them at all. How we go through life judging other based solely on aesthetics. Granted, I walk around with my head held high and my nose up in the air. A person at my job stopped me one day and asked me about why I do that. I asked her should I be walking around with my head downward and my eyes looking at my shoes. No, I am proud of who and what I am and I want everyone to know it. I do not now think nor have I ever thought that I am better that anyone. But I am proud of myself.

When I first moved to Atlanta, most of my hanging buddies were light-skinned guys. We were always together. We were in the streets every weekend at every party and every club. It got to the point that people had a name for us. Models, Inc, Melrose Place, The Golden Girls-depending on the person they had a name for us. People actually thought that the only reason that we were friends was because we were light skinned. Come on grow up! I can remember being at a party and we were playing a game. The room was divided into teams someone in the room asked a guy who was not a friend of ours if he was on our team. He replied, "I am not light enough to be on their team". Has anyone ever thought to say anything to the 5 darker brothers that are friends? No, you know why, because it does not push people's buttons. Once, while at the Pearl Garden (I am telling my age) a guy literally told all of us that he could not stand us light skinned bitches. I asked him if he was jealous. Of course he did not reply. Why are people still walking around in the (as Ms. Sophia would say) year 2000 with these issues from slavery?



I am very tired of people not taking in the total picture. By that I mean, is your perception the reality. As adults we have to challenge ourselves to make sure we know the difference between our perception and reality. Case and point- People perceive me to be stuck up and shady. The reality is that I am very down to earth. I am just shy and afraid of people. Maybe, you just don't know me. People perceive that they know me. The reality is that I barely know myself, so how can you know me after meeting me once? Because I dress a certain way, hang out with a certain group of people, like certain types of music, food or entertainment, then I am perceive to be bougie. The reality is that bougie is not a word. The word is bourgeois (boor-zhwaz) or bourgeoisie (boor-zhwa- ze) and because I like nice things for myself or like to attend plays, ballet, opera or because I like classical music. It does not mean that I can't go to Target and buy some pants or eat chicken wings while listening to Lil' Kim and playing bid whisk at a friend's house. People perceive that because I am light skinned (let the record show that I don't think that I am that light) that I think I am better than those who are darker. The reality is that I am light skinned with straight curly hair. Because of this, every bump, bruise, pimple shows up on my skin. My hair takes my about 15 minutes to mousse/gel into place every morning. Do I think I am better? Hell no!

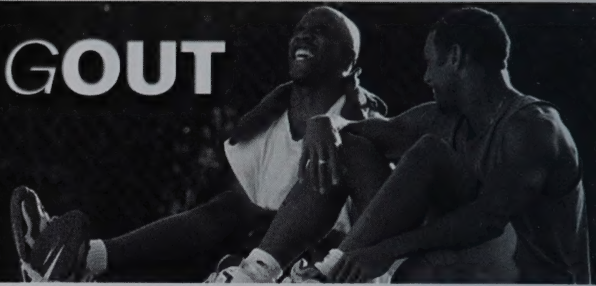
written by senior staff writer
Scott Bogan atlanta, ga.

My perception is that by writing this article that I will change your perception. Is that reality? Probably not. Will you think about how you perceive someone versus how they actually are? I really hope so. Because the reality of it is that people's perceptions are very dangerous.

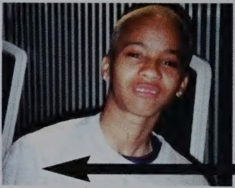
—CM—

HANGING**OUT**

@ Rascals In Houston



Grover Fortenberry & Miss Tiffany Brooks



Boy or Girl?

Yes, I forgot my lipstick

Looking for a lost love one?

Lookin Good Bo

Chanel Nicole

Jada Brooks & What?

Hanging Out In Houston, Texas

The Little rascals Untouchables

HANGING**OUT** In Houston. Our Picks for the month

Now This Is Entertainment

Finally Got My Green Card

Don't Hate Me Because I'm Beautiful

Who Am I ???

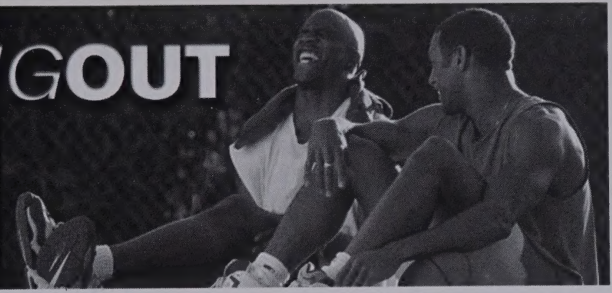
WANTED: Single men only!

I'm not leaving with you!

HANGINGOUT

@ Rascals In Houston

RASCALS



BJ: See you @ Unity Splash 2000

I thought that this was a straight club

What time does this damb club close?

It isn't over til the fat lady sings! I work hard for my money.

Three giving head is always better that on

Hanging Out In Houston, Texas

Winner of the Cookie LaCook Look Nothing Like Contest

RASCALS

Hanging Out In Houston

Flawless Oz

I Only used a half bag of hair (weave)

2ND YEAR ANNIVERSARY • COLLECTOR'S EDITION • MAY 1998-MAY 2000 • Clikque MAGAZINE

THE PRECARIOUS STATE OF GAY CINEMA IN THE 21-ST CENTURY

By: Alistair McCartney

Let's face it: if you were queer, the cinema was not exactly the safest place for you to be for the better part of the 20th century. Whether you were up there being represented, suffocating in celluloid, or down there in the dark, munching on your popcorn while silently inhaling that representation, you were in risky territory.

The Hollywood vernacular offered little choice for their gay and lesbian characters. Gayness was approached purely on the level of mimicry, and the results were not pretty— subtle identities were reduced to an alarmingly simple set of gestures, a mincing walk and a limp wrist. As the late Vito Russo in his seminal book and documentary "The Celluloid Closet" succinctly articulated: " Gays [on film] were either something to laugh at, something to pity, or something to fear.

How does one choose? One couldn't really, for it was merely the illusion of choice. If movies were nothing more than "innocent entertainment", flying in one ear and out the other, this all may not have mattered. But cinema is anything but innocent, and as Russo pointed out, Hollywood took on a dual role, fancying itself not only as a pleasure machine but as a visual tool of enlightenment: " Hollywood, that great maker of myths, taught straight people what to think about gay people. And taught gay people what to think about themselves."

Whether you believe or reject the notion that there is a trickle effect between the silver screen and the material world (between the cinema's surface and the viewer's depth), whether you agree or disagree that people's actions in the "real world" are causally influenced by what they see at the flicks, it was unarguable that the representations themselves were a form of violence.

But slowly, beginning in the late 50's and early 60's, with the opening up of social mores and the fact that gays were getting behind the cameras, writing their own screenplays and documenting their own version of themselves, the closed and claustrophobic nature of these representations began to change. The result was a less voyeuristic cinema with more sympathetic images; less stereotypes, more diverse and empathetic portrayals of queers for whom they really were: infinitely complex beings. The cinematic situation began to get better. Or did it?

Reflecting on what the U.S in the last year of last century had to offer in regards to "gay cinema," I truly wonder if things haven't gotten worse. I could count the great gay American movies of 1999 on one hand (if there were any to count.) Now that's being unfair. Last year saw some fine efforts come out of North America. There was Kimberley Peirce's visually sharp and utterly sorrowful "Boys Don't Cry." But then it's problematic whether that was even an instance of gay cinema: transgender cultural activists complained of how lesbians projected their own lifestories onto a life that was not lesbian, appropriating Brandon Teena's specifically transgender tragedy. There was David Moreton's gutsy and sexy new wave coming of age saga "Edge of Seventeen", but really, how long can gay filmmakers keep on recycling the same theme of coming out, as if that was the only gay narrative worth filming? Charming and edgy as it was, it suffered from a homo market over-saturated in movies about 17 year olds losing their cherries and having their hearts broken. Where was Lisa Cholodenko (the director of the wonderfully cool and wry "High Art",) when I needed her?

Whatever happened to the brief bright flash and fad in the mid-80's that was "queer cinema?" Whatever became of the promise made by such directors as Gregg Araki, Tom Kalin, Todd Haynes, the promise of an aesthetically challenging cinema, a seductive and slippery visual aesthetic able to do justice to the seductive slipperiness of gay identity? If Araki is anything to go by, that promise got broken or more likely, it got forgotten. Through the 90's I felt like I could always rely on Araki's movies for a heavy dose of splendid perversity. But then he goes and ends the century not with a bang but with the wet whimper that was "Splendor", proving himself to be yet another of the legions of queer directors who made a pact with Satan (the studio) for an eternity of funding (on the condition that they make light-hearted light-weight screwball comedies.)

For Araki it didn't work, and no one saw his movie. For Jim Fall, the formula proved successful: gay men went to see his romantic "comedy" (I use the term loosely) "Trick" in droves. This movie created a "new" genre whose banal terms we'll now suffer under for the next 50 years no doubt-geek meets go-go boy; geek loses go-go boy; geek gets go-go boy back. Wow, what an innovation, what a story to live our lives by! Appallingly vapid, "Trick's" only redeeming feature was, as critic Ernest Hardy pointed out, actor J.P. Pitoc's exceedingly fine behind. This is O.K. if we're talking gay porn, but it's more of a problem if a feature film's narrative thrust rests solely on the curvy attributes of an actor's ass.

Holding up "Trick" as my primary piece of evidence, any way you look at it, this country's F.F.F (fag film factor) is in a sorry-ass state.

There is a blind spot at the heart of gay cinema, and it is of an (a)historical nature. For although the images of gays in film in this country did unarguably get more sophisticated, this didn't mean that the old craggy ones just went away, dissolving into the ether. No: these old ways of seeing queers stuck. We like to think that we shed our cultural history like a snake sheds its dead skin, but culture is not unfortunately equipped with that enviable talent. We bring the lead weight of our history with us. Every movie made in the 20th century that presented an offensive and ugly portrayal of gays and lesbians is with us in the 21st century, being rented from video stores, circulating in people's memories. As stated in "The Celluloid Closet", "These fleeting images left a lasting legacy." 1950 is closer to 2000 than you might think.

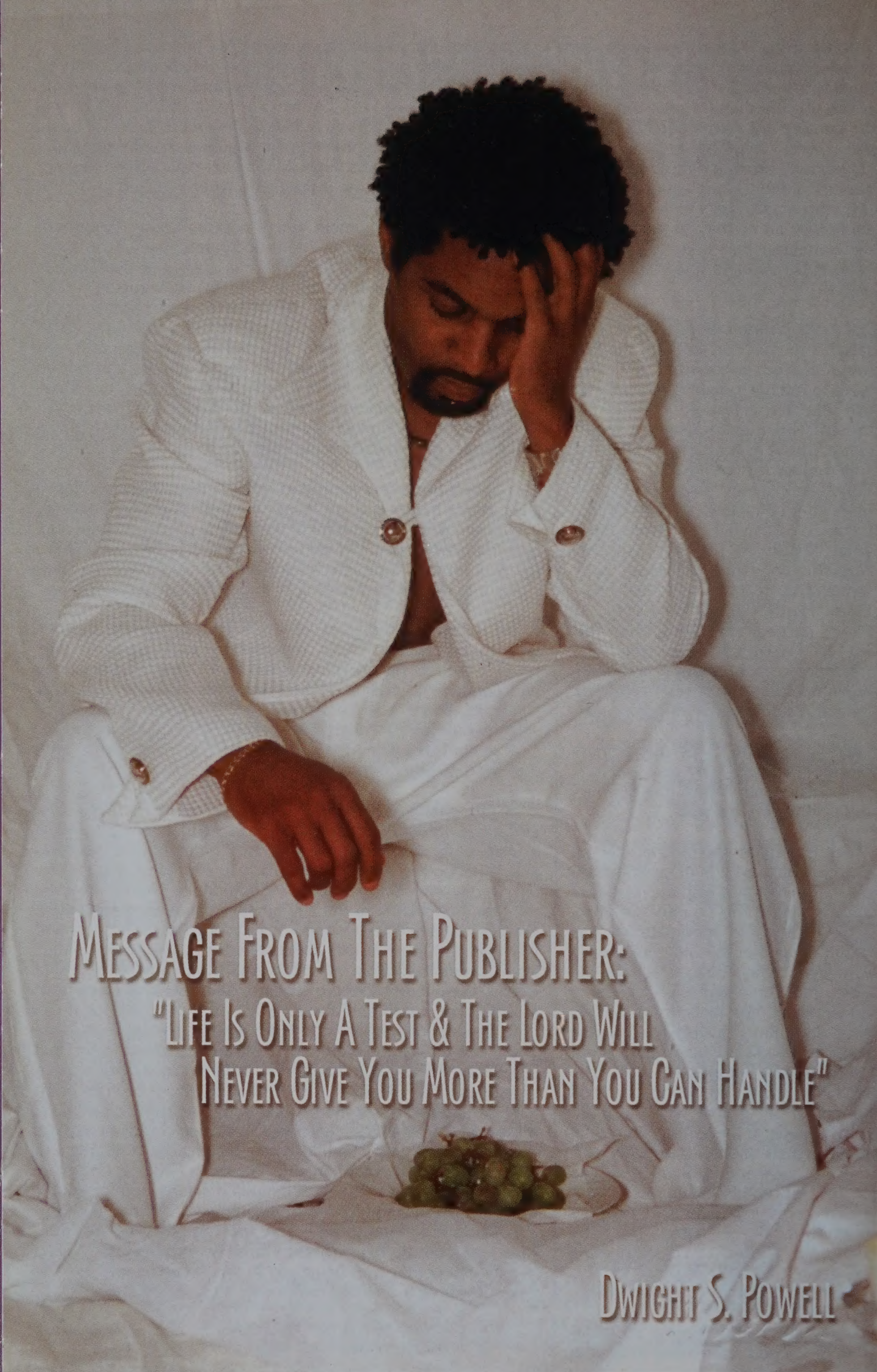
Witness the overwhelming proliferation of cliched, cardboard images of gays in current mainstream releases. "The Talented Mr. Ripley", for all its sheen and style, recycles the old "homosexuality as pathology" narrative. The big Oscar tip, and everyone's favorite "hip" movie of last year, "American Beauty" (directed by gay Sam Mendes) offered its gay viewers the grand choice of being either a cartoonish simulation of suburban hetero normalcy (more straight than the straights), or a nazi-patriarch on the outside/ sensitive gay on the inside, who when rejected must kill.

We are in a fragile moment where popular culture is particularly interested in gays, or more accurately, fixated on gays, equally terrified and titillated. There is a gay character everywhere you turn in movies and on the TV. But judging by the one-dimensionality of most of these figures, visual media seems not so interested in breathing life into gay characters as using and exploiting "gayness" as a cipher, a convenient screen onto which culture can project its secret desires and buried anxieties. Although dismantled some time ago, the censorious imperative of the infamous Hollywood Production Code is still at play, manifested in the vast numbers of these poorly realized half-human gay characters we continue to see on the screen.

The current poverty of ideas and lack of interesting identities in gay cinema in this country makes me think that contemporary gay film-makers are ignorant of the staying power of these negative representations. I'm led to conclude that they are blind to the way images, long after they have been filmed, hook their claws into the psyche, nesting in the collective unconscious.

If gay stateside filmmakers continue to avert their gaze, they will go on unconsciously reproducing stereotypes. If they refuse to reflect on the dubious history of their medium, they will continue to craft a cinema that does not truly reflect its subjects. There is an eerie logic to this scenario: As Lesbian screenwriter Jan Oxenberg declared in "The Celluloid Closet" "We're starved for images of ourselves." It makes sense then that we'd greedily consume any scraps we can get.

If the best gay cinema the U.S has to offer me this century is the visual equivalent of comfort food or as sexually enlightened as a Doris Day/ Rock Hudson comedy, I'll continue to look outside this country for my visual fix. To my mind, with a few exceptions already mentioned (Cholodenko, Araki, Haynes) the best gay cinema of the gay nineties came from elsewhere: "Happy Together" from Hong Kong's Wong Kar Wei; "Lola and Billy the Kid" from Turkish director Kutlug Ataman; "Head On" from Greek-Australian director Ana Kokkinos; "The Wild Reeds" from France's Andre Techine. All these films came from cultures that must contest their place on the international circuit, from cultures where it is impossible to live the lie that gay life is one long bubbly comedy. All are testament to the fact that the most invigorated aesthetics tend to come from a space of struggle. Gay filmmakers in this country have become complacent, fooled by the market economy's acceptance of gays, mistaking it for social acceptance. This smug complacency has bled over into their creative work, making for one fatigued, bland excuse for a gay cinema. Paradoxically, the only way they will be able to make the cinema a safer place for queers to be in the 21st Century is by taking great risks. If gay filmmakers do not begin to do so, by looking honestly with their eyes and focusing their cameras directly onto the chaos AND beauty that comes with being gay in this America, they run the risk of creating a seeming oxymoron: a blind cinema. –CM–



MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLISHER:

"LIFE IS ONLY A TEST & THE LORD WILL NEVER GIVE YOU MORE THAN YOU CAN HANDLE"

DWIGHT S. POWELL

MAY 1998-MAY 2000 • 2ND YEAR ANNIVERSARY • COLLECTOR'S EDITION •

Clikque MAGAZINE

Over the past few years I've discovered and learned quite a bit.

One of my greatest and fondest discoveries was that "Life is a test," it is only a test. This realization was an awakening as it afforded me the opportunity grow while looking at my everyday experiences for what they rarely are, tests.

From the moment we wake up each morning we are faced with challenges; in fact, the mere task of getting up can prove to be a test in itself. As a young black professional publishing Clikque for the past two years, I am constantly bombarded with problems and insurmountable hurdles that I've come to recognize as Life's challenges. Prior to this awakening, most of my friends saw me as someone that was almost always PO'ed. To them, I was happiest when things were perfect or just right. And since most situations, people, experiences, and relationships are really almost never perceived as perfect, I was constantly at war. At war with Life an consequently at war with myself.

They were right, I am happie
things are going just right. B
that I look at Life as a test, m
and mind are far less blurre
see obstacles not as proble
rather as an opportunity t
and overcome that which
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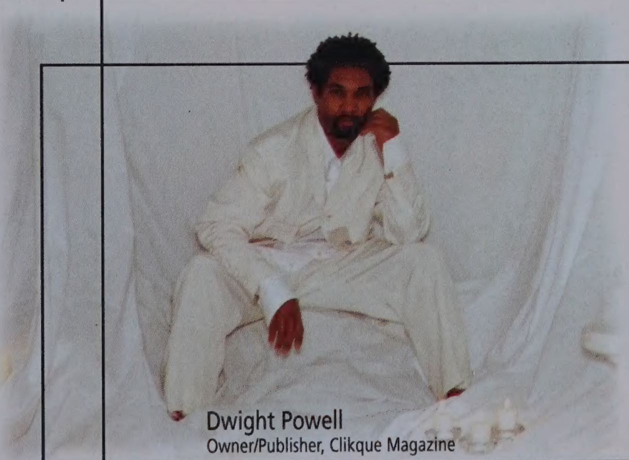
better at evaluating things
ing myself, "why is this issu
life? What can I learn and ho
grow?" Growing up as a yo
in the Bahamas, my grand
taught and told me a lot. O

found message that she embedded in my brain was that "the Lord will never give you more that you can handle," sounds simple, but it is so true.

Take a minute to reflect over rough spots or situations that you may have experienced, the fact that you are here with us today proves that you were able to overcome those situations or problems. And even though going through those difficult moments may have been challenging, you made it.... They weren't more that you could handle. Almost every situation, problem, or experience is a test, challenging you to rise above that which is perceived to be creating havoc in your life.

This is not to suggest that I have mastered life or every possible obstacle, but I now know how I can overcome them. When you acknowledge that "Life Is A Test", and that the Lord won't give you more that you can handle, you will be able to see the beauty in almost any thing, situation or person. When you fall, you'll pick yourself up instead of wallowing in defeat.

It has truly been my pleasure offering Clikque Magazine to you during the past two years. You've warmly invited me and my thoughts into your space, and for this I am most appreciative. As always, Clikque attempts to inform and entertain you, our valued and respected readership. Thanks for reading, supporting and contributing to Clikque's success!



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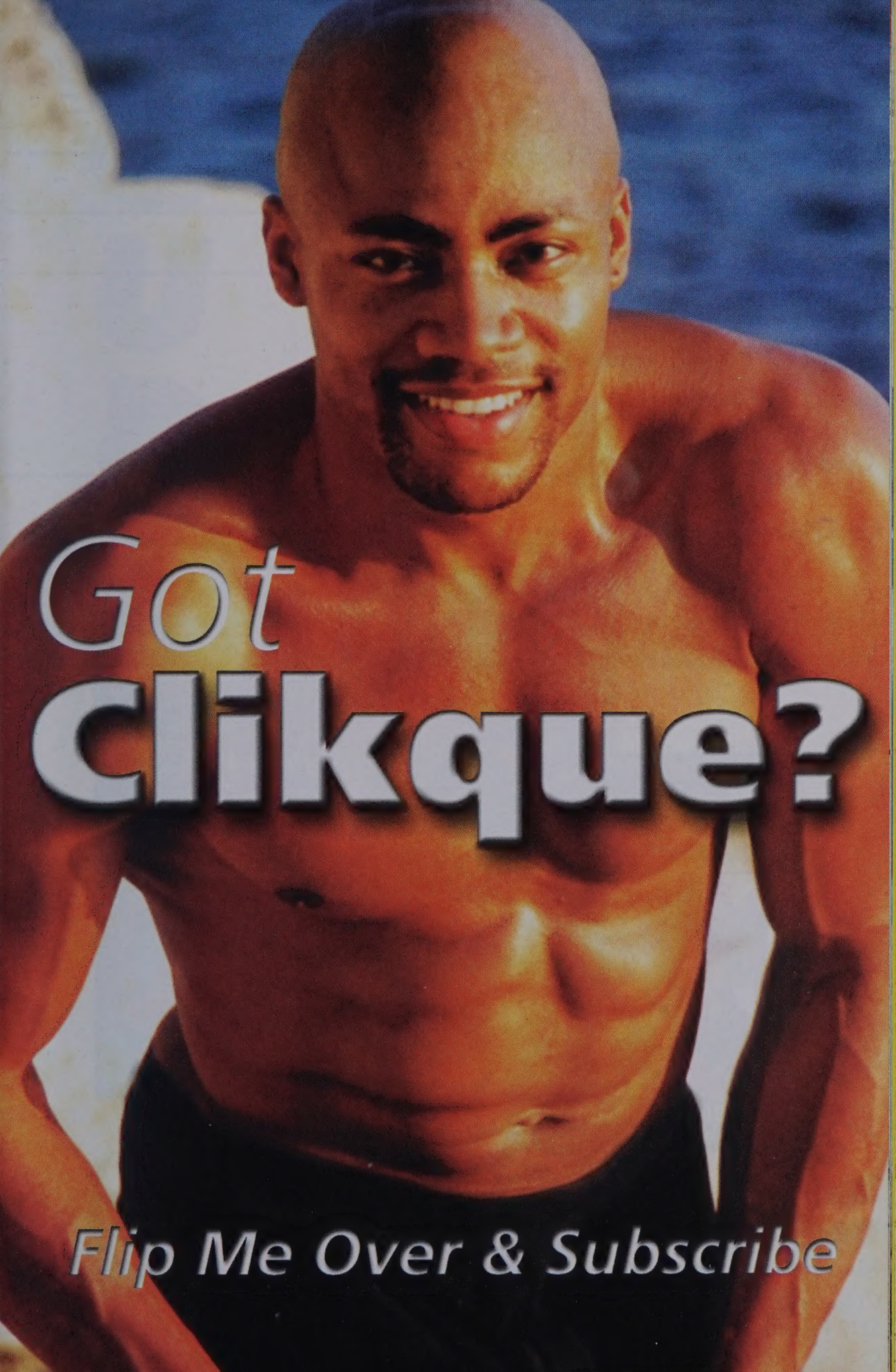
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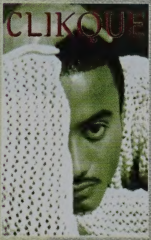


JUL1998

AUG/SEPT1998

OCT1998

It was an unusually hot day in Houston, for the end of April in 1998, when Clikque Magazine appeared on the scene. Ironically the hot weather may have been a foreshadowing of the very nature of Clikque as it would quickly rise to the top of the reading lists for African-American GLBT/SGL people. On this second anniversary we are proud to present the "mile stones" of Clikque as seen through the covers, people, and events that have brought Clikque to being the nation's #1 monthly publication for same gender loving people of African descent. From modest beginnings and a much smaller circulation, in Houston, to the ever expanding presence in the community, nationwide Clikque is now represented in nearly every market in the nation (with at least minimal distribution in every major city in America and several international destinations. Saturating the community, with a current circulation of over 25,000+, Clikque currently enjoys a growing subscription base that spans the globe and has been able to attract major sponsors including pharmaceutical companies, health organizations, pageantry systems, and some of America's hottest dance and party spots.

A magazine, "for him & for her," Clikque has been successful largely because of the persistence, stamina and dedication of it's owner, Dwight Powell. Our extensive list of fine writers and artists who have committed their time and talent towards the magazine are also great forces for the quick success of Clikque Magazine. In return Clikque has and will continue to give back by exposing new and emerging artists; as well as, offering space for our greatest stars to showcase their works and wares. ***Clikque's prominence is based on the fact that it offers a new fresh approach of highlighting the lives of African American members of the GLBT/SGL community with style, class, and fierce flare***!

Here's what happened milestone by milestone.

• *May 1998*

A Star is born in Clikque Magazine as your complete news, information, and entertainment guide for African-American GLBT/SGL people and the community that serves them. Clikque served as the Official Guide to Houston Splash '98 with

NOV1998

DEC1998

JAN1999

FEB1999

MAR1999

Rande Rochelle featured as a legend in the making.

• June 1998
Clikque living up to its motto "for him and for her" features its first female cover model, Kimla Mouton. Not only built for beauty but also an entrepreneur with her partner Shirley as co-owners of Club Extreme in Houston.

• July 1998
Clikque continues it's representation of the community by featuring the face of all faces Legendary Whitney Mugler from the House of Mugler. TRAXX becomes Atlanta's first major club to embrace Clikque magazine as a major advertiser and supporter.

• August/Sept. 1998
Clikque explodes into the market of Black Prides. After covering several events this year Clikque serves as the Official Magazine for Atlanta's Black Gay Pride Celebration. The body and bulge, of George King is featured on the cover which is still recognized today as the Clikque's most demanded cover, to date.

• Believing Clikque could better serve the entire community with contracts and opportunities in the "Black Gay Mecca" Clikque Magazine moves it's home base to Atlanta operating out of the home of the publisher.

• October 1998
Niesha Dupree- Legendary Mother of Atlanta is featured in Clikque along with the internationally known Champions Models Calendar owner Lance, stands Guard as cover model.

• November 1998
The Supreme Legend Pepper LaBeija, mother of the House of LaBeija is featured on the cover and offers insight into his life and the Ball world in the cover story.

• December 1998
Clikque features three new faces of the month the very enticing Terrance MaGee, Stephanie Kellogg, and Monté St. James, the newly crowned Mr. Black Universe.

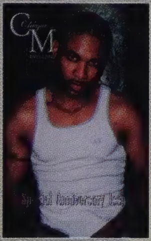
• January 1999
Clikque features Stewart Ebony legendary mother of the House of Ebony.

• February 1999
Clikque serves as the official magazine for the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum's convention held in Atlanta. Clikque cameras captured many of the nation's most prominent leaders. Gay and allies converged on the city of diversity to continue celebrating the strides many of our leaders have made in society. Clikque magazine was the only publication allowed to photograph Regina Belle's concert, which was the grand finale of the entire weekend.

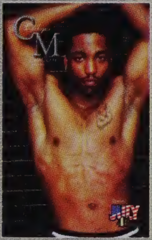
•March 1999
The graceful, lovely, and inspirational Necole Luv Dupree join the cover model alumni as the first female impersonator to appear on the cover of Clikque. Necole in her own dramatic flare shocks the nation with her stark presentation and deft style...Fierce.

•April 1999
Fresh with a new look Clikque con-

CM
Splash
1999
APRIL 1999



MAY 1999

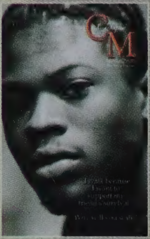


JUN 1999

CM
Hotter Than July
JUL 1999

AUG 1999

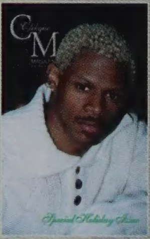
SEPT1999



OCT1999

CM
The Fall Fashion Issue

NOV1999



DEC1999

CM
MILLENNIUM

JAN2000

tinues to grow as the nations most widely sought after monthly publication for the Black Gay community. For the first time Clikque produces an 80 page spread.

- Clikque features the stud model, FLEX, on the cover
- Clikque was on hand to capture "The Stars of the Century" as the world witnessed the birth of the nation's hottest entertainment show spectacle hosted by the hilarious Sophia McIntosh and the effervescent Dominique Rashad.
- Clikque Magazine celebrates it's 1st year anniversary at Traxx which features recording legend Miki Howard as special guest performer.

•May 1999

Clikque Magazine Owner and Publisher of Clikque Magazine is featured on the cover of the First Anniversary Issue.

- The Anniversary issue unveils a 3 page fold out cover never before seen, and as yet not duplicated, by any other African American publication.
- Clikque makes waves at Houston Splash '99 producing it's first anniversary pool party. Clikque's largest event was deemed a huge success.

• June 1999

The man and muscle of Maceo heat up the cover while the bodacious body of Allegra heats up the inside along with the Champion Connection featuring some of the most "phine" men and women to walk the runway in a fashion showcase.

•July 1999

Clikque hosts its first prelim for Mr & Ms. Clikque America. Tijuanna Brooks becomes the first Ms. Clikque Houston.

•August 1999

This issue was Clikque's most lucrative due to advertisements from sponsors and a special fold out ad created for TRAXX-Atlanta. Traxx's add mesmerized the nation as it advertised it's upcoming events and specials for September pride in Atlanta.

•September 1999

Clikque presents it's most equally balanced issue featuring male and female interests throughout the pages of the most sought after publication in America.

•October 1999

Tampa Jamz announced by Clikque. Slated for June 2000 L.William Cosby was selected as the first Tampa Jamz event model.

- Clikque joins in the march for a cure as it becomes a big promoter of AIDS Walk Atlanta. Clikque organized a team of walkers and promoted the event through out the pages of Clikque.
- Clikque also produced the most comprehensive AIDS report ever produced by an African American publication. Refusing to continue ignoring the impact of HIV/AIDS on the total African American community Clikque offers a unique perspective and report of the devastation of HIV/AIDS on women, children/youth, men, and families. Clikque's viewpoint included looking at the statistics within both the gay and heterosexual communities.

• November 1999

• Clikque moves into its first office space in the heart of Midtown Atlanta.

• Clikque produced it's largest issue to date, featuring Nestor Zapata, Clikque's Business/Office Manager and Cover coordinator. This issue boasted 96 pages of information, news, and entertainment "for him & for her."

• Clikque, along with the nation, said goodbye to the world renowned Loretta's Nightclub and welcomed it's successor "The Sequel" to the scene; continuing to offer Atlanta's nightlife variety and spice.

• December 1999

Moving from just a magazine that encourages support of organizations Clikque raised donations for the first time to support local AIDS service organizations.

• Legendary Father of the House of Mizrahi, André Mizrahi featured on the cover.

• January 2000

Clikque produced the first Mr. & Ms. Clikque America Pageant. Two star studded nights of competition saw the best and the brightest of the nations female impersonators and male entertainers grace the stages either as contestants or as entertainers. Preliminary night was held at the World Famous Traxx nightclub and finals were held at Georgia State University's Rialto Theatre.

• Terryl-Lynn Foxx and Tim Bolhar were crowned as the first title holders with Sasha Valentino and Damien Kelly as first runners up.

• Chiron becomes the first pharmaceutical company to embrace Clikque Magazine with an advertising contract, through the help of Don Sneed, executive director of Renaissance III in Dallas.

•February 2000

Clikque sells it's first cover featuring the stars of the movie "Trois". Clikque offers exposure of the gay community to mainstream African-America while also offering our opinion of the first feature African American film in 2000 to delve in anyway into the arena of sexual diversity.

•March 2000

Clikque makes what may now become an annual face lift as it promotes its current reigning King and Queen Mr and Ms. Clikque America 2000 on the cover.

• Clikque presents its launch party in New Orleans spearheaded by our reigning Queen Ms. Terryl-Lynn Foxx.

• April 2000

Clikque hosts it's anniversary parties in Atlanta at Fusion and Traxx. Clikque Hosts the "Marvines" art exhibit at the Martini Bar in Midtown Atlanta during its anniversary weekend.

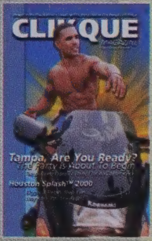
As you can see Clikque has been very busy in the last two years. This month Clikque brings you its second anniversary pool party at Houston Splash at the Sheraton. Coming soon Clikque brings you Tampa Jamz, June 9-11, 2000 and our preliminary contests to Mr. and Ms. Clikque 2001 in a city near you, as well as other special and feature events

Clikque M Magazine
Trois

FEB2000

CLIKQUE Magazine
BOLD New Look
Teryl-Lynn & Tim

MAR2000



APRIL2000

MAY2000

To The Following People & Business, The Publisher Extends A Sincere

Thank You!

ADVERTSERS

- A Floral Fantasy-Atlanta
- A Touch of Class Limousine Service- Atlanta
- Abbey Insurance Services-Atlanta
- AID Atlanta
- AIDS Education & Services For Minorities
- AIDS Survival Project
- Allen Washington Productions
- AMASSI Inc.- Oakland
- At The Beach Shorey INC.
- Atlanta Lambda Center
- Atlanta Pharmacy & Gifts
- Backstreet Atlanta
- Bam Boo Productions- Houston
- Benefits America
- Black Gay Travel- National
- Bobby & Flex-Deon Blake
- Bristol-Myers Squibb- Atlanta
- Brushstrokes- Atlanta
- BurkHart's- Atlanta
- C. Moore Services- Atlanta
- Candiland Productions- Savannah
- Cee Jay- Houston
- Champion Connection-Atlanta
- Charles Jackson-New York
- Chicago Pride Committee
- Chiron-National
- Chocolate City-National
- Club City Lights-Jackson
- Club Colours-Richmond
- Club Diversite-DC
- Club Extreme-Houston
- Club Fusion-Atlanta
- Club Jaguars-Atlanta
- Club NV-Dallas
- Continental Pageantry System
- Copeland Syndor Group- New York
- Cotton States Insurance- Atlanta
- Damrons-National
- Diva & Productions- Atlanta
- Dream A Little Online
- E.D.'s Gourmet Records- Atlanta
- Elliot Productions- Houston
- Family Time Entertainment- Houston
- Fat Boy Follies- Montgomery
- FINASSISTCO.- Miami
- Flex- Atlanta
- Gateway Publishing- Atlanta
- Gay Black Male Magazine
- Georgia Equality Project
- Girls In The Night- Atlanta
- Goodness Gracious Florals & Gifts-Detroit
- Groove ENTERTAINMENT- Miami
- Heavy Diva Productions- Chicago
- Hotlanta Softball League- Atlanta
- Houston Splash
- Hudson Medical Group- Atlanta
- In The Life Atlanta
- Incognito The Club- Houston
- International Pageantry System
- Ishai Books- Tampa
- J2K & TRE's Productions- Atlanta
- J & J Productions- Atlanta
- J & W Productions- Atlanta
- Kay Mitchell Life Insurance- Atlanta
- Ken Kyle Beauty Studio/Cosmetics-Detroit
- KLR Entertainment-San Francisco
- Lamancha Video.com
- Latroys-Birmingham
- Loretta's- Atlanta
- LP Entertainment
- MANSTYLE- Atlanta
- Man To Man Productions- DC
- Maxine Blue Productions- Atlanta
- Memphis Pride Committee
- Men of Color- Detroit
- Metro 2000- Dallas
- Micheal Christopher Books
- Midtowne Spa- Houston
- Midwest AIDS Prevention Project
- Miss National Pageantry System
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- Mr. & Miss Black Vogue
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- National Minority AIDS Council
- National Viator Representatives,INC.
- New Attitude Club- Greenville
- New Boston Staffing- Atlanta
- One Life Productions- Atlanta
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- Outwrite Bookstore- Atlanta
- People of Color Coalition INC.- Tampa
- Phebe's Southern Cuisine Catering
- Pin Up's- Atlanta
- PlanetOut.com
- Pride Medical- Atlanta
- Q's Joint- National
- Rainbow Investments
- Rainbow- video + music- Atlanta
- Rande Rochelle Productions- Houston
- Rascals Night Club- Houston
- Red Kat Productions
- Renaissance III- Dallas
- Rivendell Marketing- New Jersey
- Shadow Grafix- Atlanta
- SisterLove, INC.- Atlanta
- SMIRNOFF- Citrus Twist
- Songmaster BGC Cruises-San Francisco
- Soular Books- DC
- Spiritual Lighthouse Ministries & Church- Atlanta
- Statscript Pharmacy- Atlanta
- T.H. Charters- Houston
- Tampa AIDS Network
- The Atlanta Pride Committee, INC.
- The Balm & Gilead
- The City of Houston
- The Edge- DC
- The Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce
- The Generator- Chicago
- The House of Ebony- Atlanta
- The House of Bvlgari- Detroit
- The National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum
- The Palace- Atlanta
- The Otherside- Atlanta
- The Rails Entertainment Group- Chicago
- The Sequel- Atlanta
- The Warehouse- NYC
- Tracks- DC
- TRAXX- Atlanta
- U-Men-U-Sweat- New York
- Unity Pride Splash- Houston
- Us Helping Us- DC
- Vaxgen- National
- Viggiano Interiors- Detroit
- WHAZZUP! MAGAZINE
- YAMS Productions- Atlanta

Clikque Says Thanks To It's Two Biggest Supporters

Special Thanks To Two Of Clkque's Biggest Supporters Grover Fortenberry of Rascals Nightclub (Houston, TX) & Don Sneed of Renaissance III (Dallas, TX)

To The Following People, The Publisher Extends A Sincere

Thank You!

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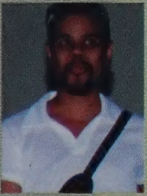

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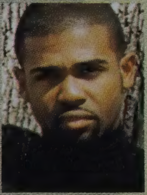

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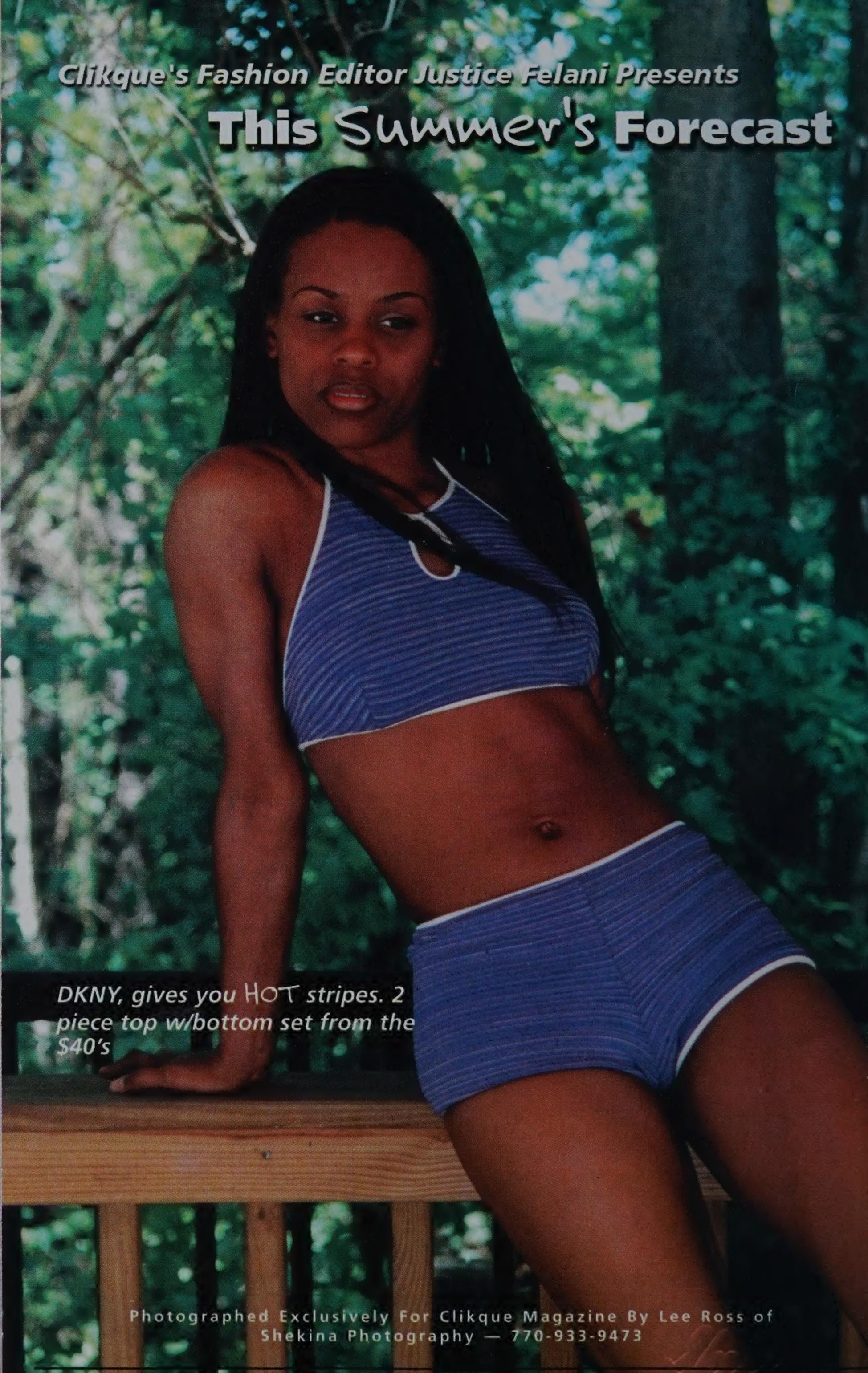
Vinson-Linzy, Shannon

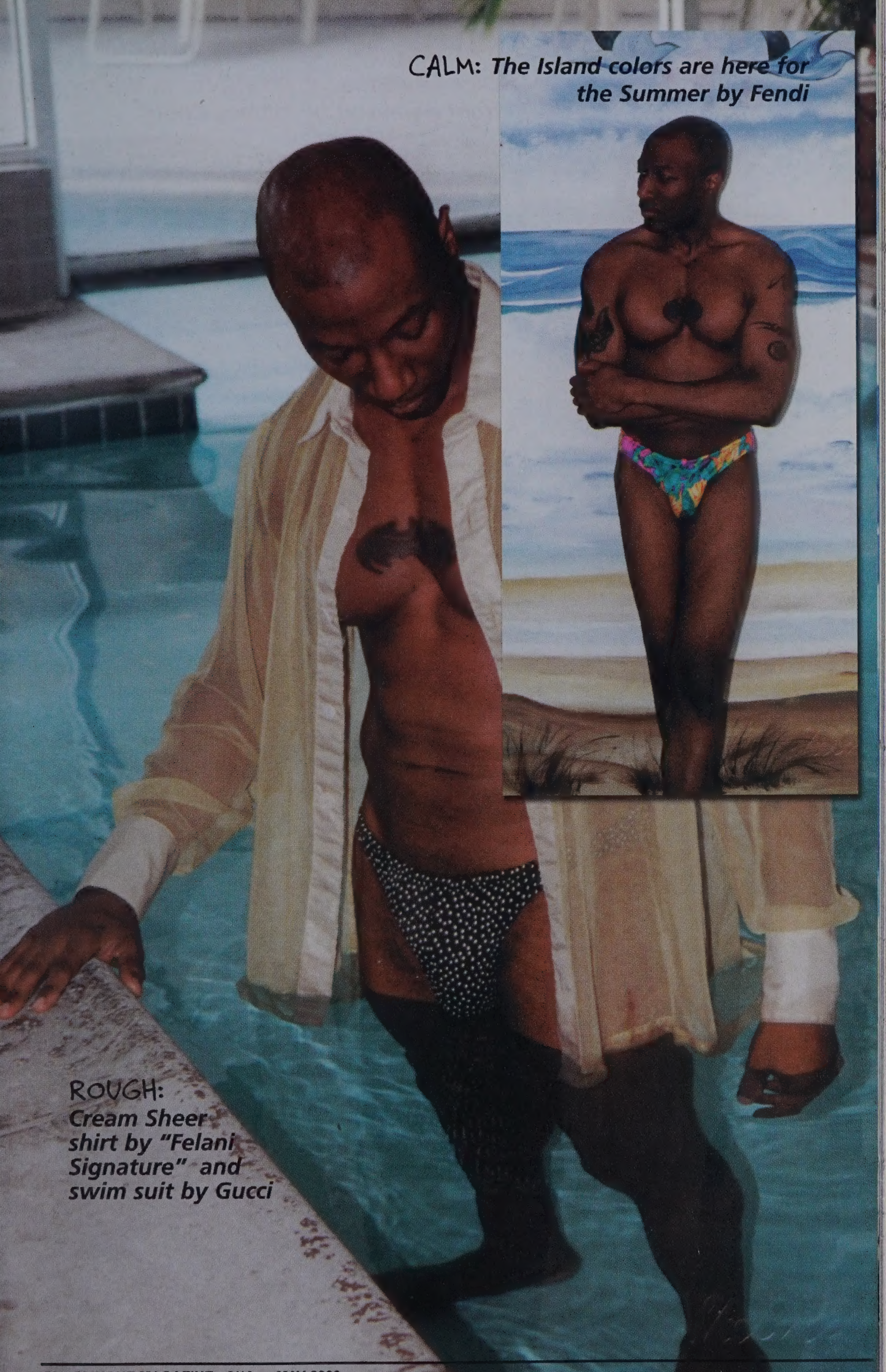
Clikque's Fashion Editor Justice Felani Presents

This Summer's Forecast



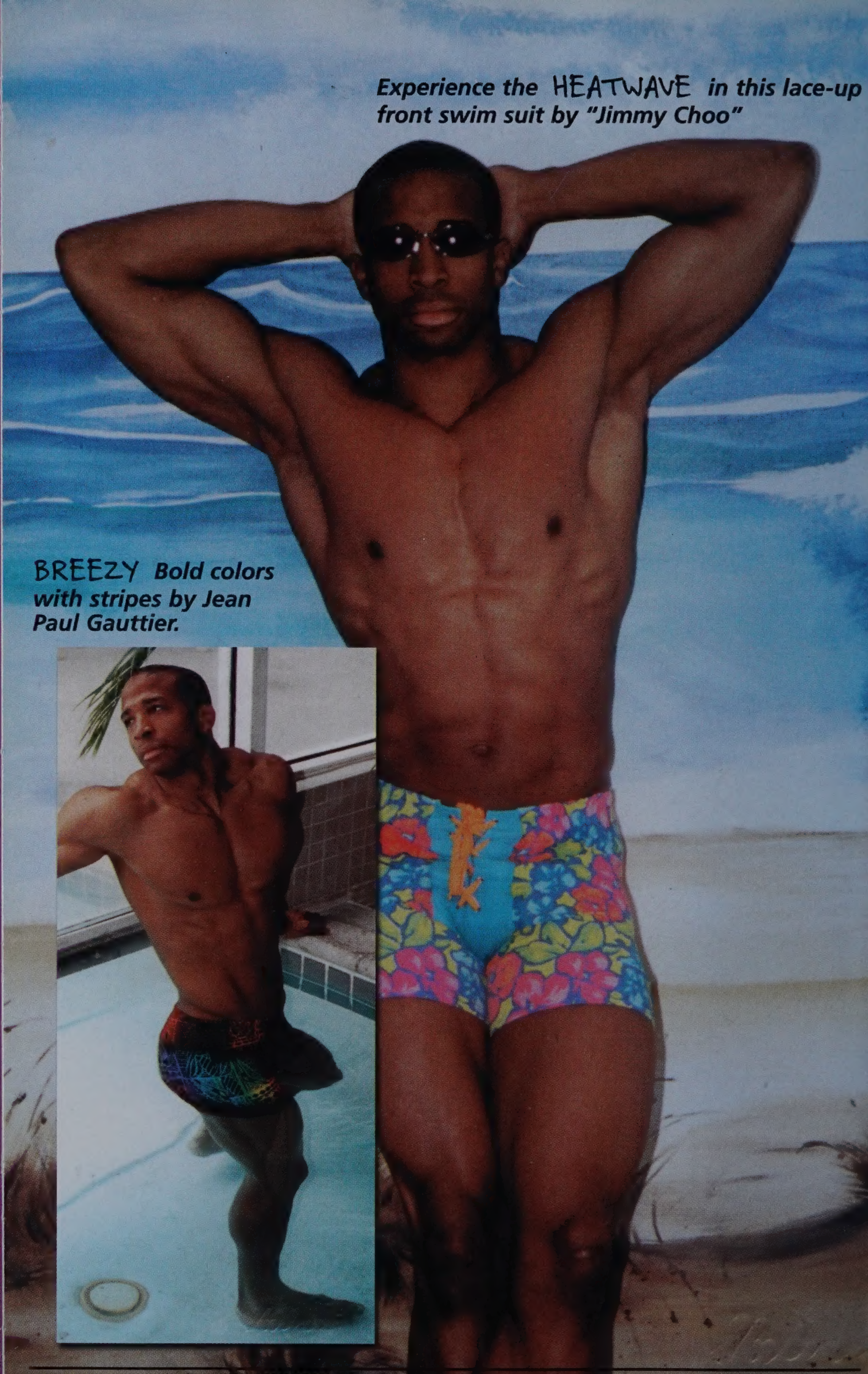
DKNY, gives you HOT stripes. 2 piece top w/bottom set from the $40's

Photographed Exclusively For Clikque Magazine By Lee Ross of Shekina Photography — 770-933-9473



CALM: *The Island colors are here for the Summer by Fendi*

ROUGH: *Cream Sheer shirt by "Felani Signature" and swim suit by Gucci*



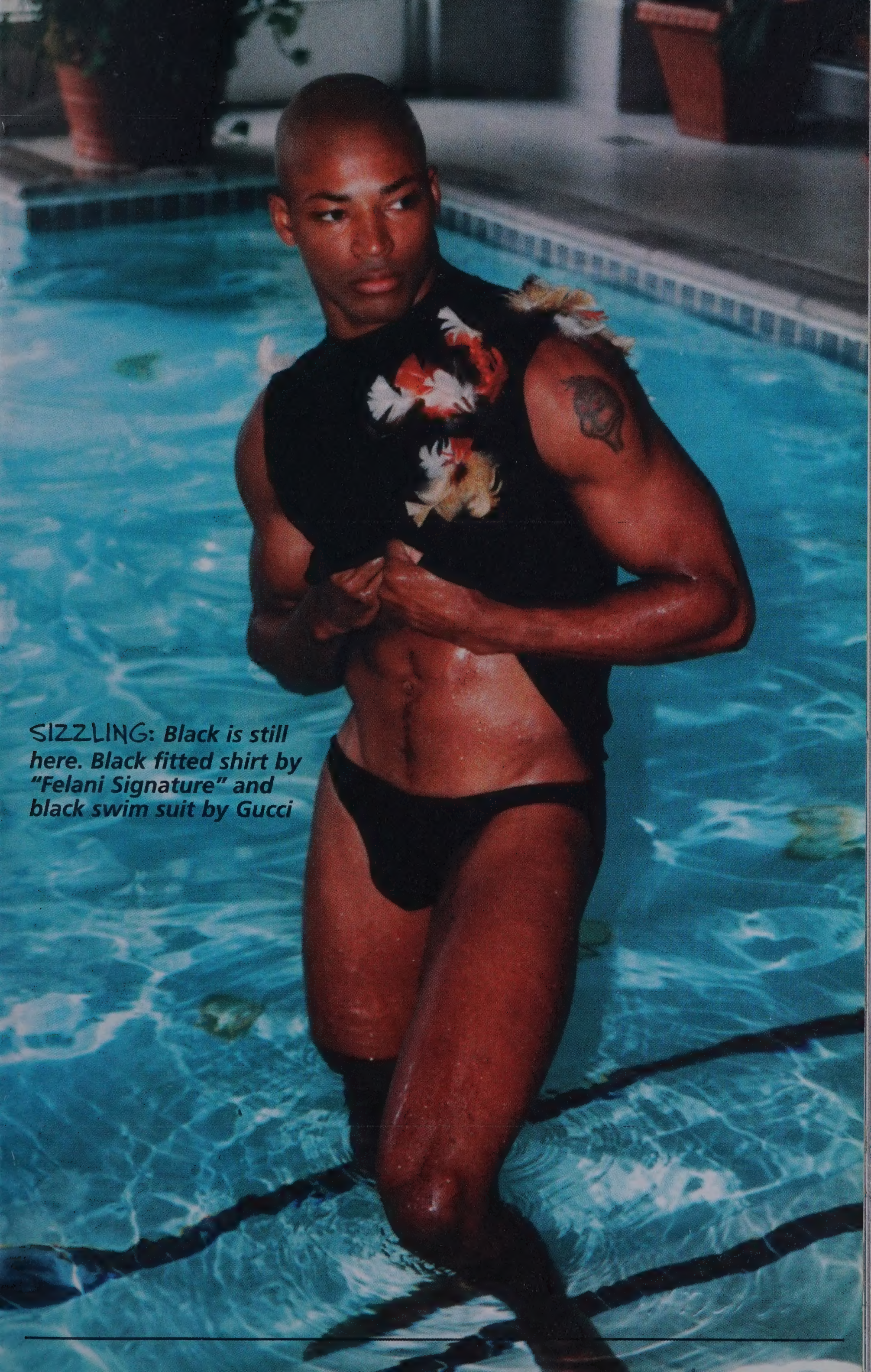
Experience the HEATWAVE *in this lace-up front swim suit by "Jimmy Choo"*

BREEZY ***Bold colors with stripes by Jean Paul Gauttier.***

BRIGHT *all white Net by "Felani Signature"*

STEAMY 2 piece black leather swim suit by Jean Paul Gauttier. Heels by Nine West

Calvin Klein 2 piece yellow soft cotton swimsuit



SIZZLING: *Black is still here. Black fitted shirt by "Felani Signature" and black swim suit by Gucci*

TAMPA JAMZ
2000

Friday June 9th - Sunday June 11th

Model: Rod Martin

Have you been couped up all winter long? Are you looking for a new and exciting way to get your summer started off? Need a vacation? Looking for fun, excitement, and lots of sunshine? Join Clikque Magazine as it presents the first ever Tampa Jamz, June 9-11, 2000 in Tampa, Florida.

This weekend promises to serve you face, body, and fun. Thousands of people have responded to the call to Tampa and we are expecting a lot more to join us for 3 fabulous fun-filled days on the western Coast of Florida. Clikque offers the best of the best including some of the countries most dazzling entertainment.

Tampa Jamz is not for the faint at heart, as the hot bodies will be in the house and on the beach. Now, if you think you've seen all the bodies and been to the best of parties, this is one event you cannot afford to miss as Clikque sets the party standard for the new millennium. And if the action on the beach gets too hot we'll bring it in doors for you to do it.... all night long. Then to cap it all off, join Clikque at Busch Gardens for a funtastic experience of thrills and frills in one of the nation's most captivating and exhilarating theme parks.

Friday, June 9

"MEET & GREET" REEECEPTION

@ Hyatt Regency Tampa Downtown, 8:00PM

"JAMZ 101" KICK-OFF PARTY

Citrus Twist Mixer Sponsored by Smirnoff

11:00- Until @ **The Factory/Garage** • 802 E. Whitting
CLIKQUE brings you Florida's first summer explosion featuring Atlanta's own House DJ Keith/ TRAXX along with DJ Smash/Fusions spinning hip-hop and reggae. Come in your sexiest skimpies and win special prizes and drinks. Party with some of the nation's sexiest men and women.

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Saturday, June 10

"WET N' WILD" BEACH PARTY

1:00 P.M.- 7:00 PM - **Fort DeSoto National State Park.** Let your inhibitions run wild. Come bathe in the sun while being entertained by THE HILARIOUS MISS SOPHIA MCINTOSH. Come see who will win the First Mr. Wet N' Wild Body contest. Enjoy games, watersports, volleyball, FREE giveaways, and much more. Food & Softdrinks available.

"WET N' WILD" DIVA REVUE

9:30 P.M.-11:00 PM @ **Club Atlanta** • 1731 W. Kennedy Blvd.
Tampa's Largest Nightclub
Hosted by Dominique Rashaad & Sophia McIntosh featuring "The Stars of the Century" (Niesha Dupree, Jasmine Bonet, Raquel Lord, Necole Luv Dupree, Stasha Sanchez, R'Darious Black & Monté St. James. Also featuring Mr. and Miss Clikque America 2000, Maxine Blue and special invited guests from the State of Florida. AfterThe Diva Revue, you're welcome to stay for the Sweat Party absolutely FREE!

"WET N' WILD" SWEAT PARTY

Citrus Twist Mixer Sponsored by Smirnoff

11:00PM Until @ **Club Atlanta** • 1731 W. Kennedy Blvd.
Tampa's Largest Nightclub
Come be a part of this summer's "heatwave". Over 1500 Sexy Men & Women @ The HOTTEST PARTY to ever hit Tampa featuring some of the industries FIERCEST male dancers and female entertainers such as White Chocolate. House music by DJ Keith from TRAXX along with DJ Smash from Club Fusion spinning hip-hop and reggae.

Sunday, June 11

TAMPA JAMZ "FINALE" @ BUSCH GARDENS

Fun games & rides for everyone @ Only $35/person.
Call Clikque to order your tickets today!

Unconventionally Alamo!

At Alamo,® we make renting our cars a fun part of your trip. And as the official car rental company for Clikque Magazine's 2000 Tampa Jamz, we're offering all attendees special discounted rates.

So, choose Alamo and let your convention fun begin!

Reserve with your travel agent or Alamo. Request **I.D. Number 632364** and **Rate Code GR.**

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with Kitty LeClaw

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with Roxanne

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June 9th - 11th

Tampa, Florida

Clikque MAGAZINE

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- **Girls In The Night**
- LaFace Records
- DreamWorks Records
- Wet Lubrications
- www.ChocolateCityUSA
- Whazzup Magazine
- **Atlanta:** Traxx Nightclub
- **Atlanta:** Club Fusion
- **Chicago:** Rails Entertainment Group
- **New York:** U-Men-U-Sweat
- **Wash. D.C.:** Serville Entertainment
- **Miami:** Groove Entertainment

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DISTILLED FROM PREMIUM GRAIN
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Beach/Park Rules: Tampa Jamz is an approved event by the Florida State Department of Parks & Recreations. You may be subject to fines by the Park Rangers if you violate beach/park rules. The following are not permitted on the grounds of the park or on the beach: alcohol, glass containers, and pets.

For More Information Call The Clikque Atlanta Office @
404-817-3898
or visit us at www.clikque.com
1117 Peachtree Walk NE # 125
Atlanta, Ga., 30309

If You Must Drink...

....Drink responsibility during night events. No drinking allowed at the beach!

A portion of the proceeds from this event will be donated to People of Color AIDS Coalition, serving the Tampa and St. Petersburg areas.

People Of Color AIDS Coalition, Inc.

Now you can party and help someone else in the process... The best of everything... that's what Clikque represents and what we will bring to Tampa, so come join us!!!

Designed by Clikque Graphics
404-817-3898

PRIDE AND JOY

a national celebration
of gay & lesbian PRIDE

2000

Washington, DC
Convention Center
********** Exhibit Hall A
************ 900 9th Street NW

Saturday, May 27, 2000 8PM - 3AM

(Black Pride Weekend / Memorial Weekend)

MARTHA WASH

- Listen 2 The People
- It's Raining Men
- Catch The Light
- Give It To You
- Carry On
- Just Us

BARABARA TUCKER

- Stop Playin With My Mind
- Everybody Dance
- Beautiful People
- & more

BRIAN STINGILY

- That's The Way Love Is
- Why Can't U Be Real
- You Make Me Feel
- Peace Of Heaven
- Devotion
- Testify

JENNIFER HOLIDAY

- Woman's Got The Power
- And I Am Telling U
- Think It's Over
- No Frills Love
- More-n-More
- Love Stories

Music by:
Sedrick (Int'l Black Pride Circuit dj)
DJ Unknown (The Warehouse/nyc) R&B/Hip Hop
Andre Collins (The Warehouse/nyc)
T-Pro (Milk, PM/nyc)
Fred Pierce (nyc)

National Media Sponsors:
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www.ebonymale.com
Whazzup! Magazine
Clikque Magazine
NEXT Magazine

Advanced Tickets $25

Don't wait in line. A separate entrance will be established for all advanced ticket holders. First 3000 patrons to purchase advanced tickets will receive VIP Admission discount passes for the Pride & Joy 2000 AFTER PARTY @ NATION Nightclub (4AM until 11AM)

Advanced Tickets:
Lambda Rising 202.462.6969
Brushstrokes Bookstore 404.876.8567

For information:
Seville 202.518.2534 UniversalPride@aol.com
www.UniversalPride.com

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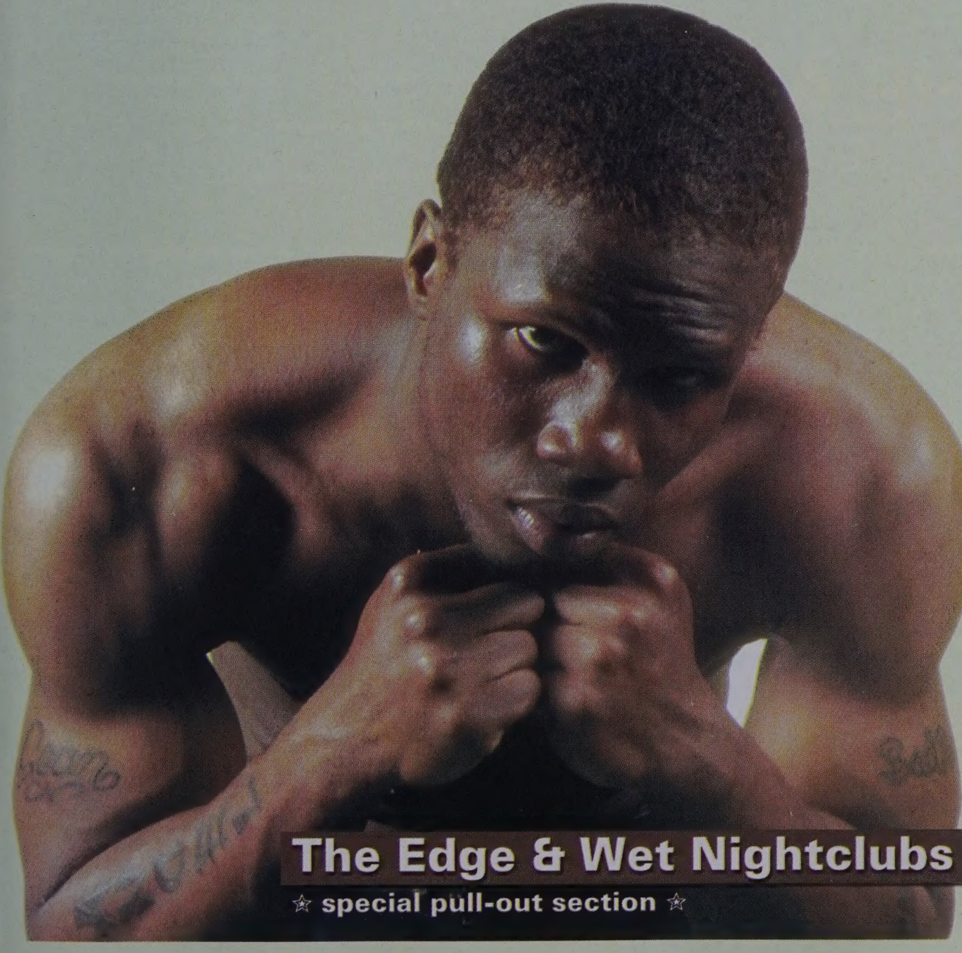
Pride Guide 2000



The Edge & Wet Nightclubs

☆ special pull-out section ☆

work OUT

OFFICIAL PRIDE EVENT

Saturday, May 27 8:00 pm - until

This ain't no **conventional** party...**It's the real thang**. The Edge brings you the industry's **best DJs** for the biggest **event** of the weekend! From New York, special guest **DJ Cameron** spinning all night! Plus, North Carolina's **DJ Corey** spins beats in the warehouse and **DJ Wesley** spins grooves on the outdoor patio. There'll be **tons of giveaways**. . .And of course, thousands of the **hottest men in the world**.

At the Edge. $12. *Pride Passes Honored.*

pre-HEAT

OFFICIAL PRIDE EVENT

Sunday, May 28 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Come outside for the weekend's only **ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT** cookout under the Edge's **huge outdoor tent**. It's ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT. . . and that's **a lot** of food.
Music by **DJ Big O**.

At the Edge. $5. *Pride Passes Honored.*

HEAT sundays

Sunday, May 28 8:00 pm - until

The Edge & Wet **unite** to bring you a massive clubwide event featuring **over 50 of the hottest, sexiest, wettest NUDE go-go boys** from around the nation. This event will be big! We're even **adding a shower** on the patio! **FREE continental breakfast** will be served at 3am. Music by DC's own **DJs Big O**, **Wesley**, & **Geoffrey C**.

At the Edge. $12 before 9 pm. $15 after.

AFRO diziac

presented by TNT

Monday, May 29 8:00 pm - until

A **cabaret-style variety show** that starts out with incredible **drag performances** by: Former Miss Gay America **Tiffany Bonet**, Atlanta's **Maxine Blue**, and many more. Hosted by resident whore **Tina "Tuna" Adams**.

But we don't stop until they **drop** . . . **their pants**. Come and check out our **sexy male exotic dancers** as they show you what being a man is all about. Hosted by **Pimpmaster Tink**.

Featuring music by **DJ Big O**. Dancing with The Legendary District House Mother **DJ Sedrick** in the Warehouse, and with **DJ Cameron** on the patio. Drink specials before 9.

At the Edge. $15.

HOT CHOCOLATE

with StarSearch

Tuesday, May 30 8:00 pm - until

Wet's **busiest night of the year** will have the **hottest** and **largest** line-up of all **NUDE** African-American **male go-go dancers** ever! Now, for the first time, that lineup can **include you**! Be the man that you are, and **get up on the bar!** Enter Hot Chocolate's **Star Search Contest** for your chance to win up to **$1000 in cash**. Music by **DJs Big O** and **Wesley**.

At Wet. $10.

GIRLS NITE OUT

Thursday, May 25 10:00 pm - until

Willette & Woo Woo are your hosts for this outragious night of sexy **female dancers**. **$2.50 Iced Teas** before midnight. Music by **DJ Lady Tawanna**.

At the Edge. $8 for 21 & up. $12 for 18-20.

"MEAT" & GREET

Thursday, May 25 8:00 pm - until

Be the first to see the **finest** men DC has to offer. Featuring **nude dancers** on the bar in Wet with music by **DJ Victor Martinez**, and dancing with **DJ Wesley** in the **newly renovated Warehouse**.

At Wet. $3 before 9 pm. $7 after.

under wear happy hour

Friday, May 26 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Groove into the evening with our sexy **underwear gogo boys**. Featuring **$2 well drinks**, cocktail munchies, and smooth R&B sounds by **DJ Big O**. Hosted by **TNT Entertainment**.

At Wet. $5.

BOYZ CLUB

OFFICIAL PRIDE EVENT

Friday, May 26 8:00 pm - until

Join a **few thousand** of your closest brothas for **Boyzclub**, DC's **newest, hottest, and biggest** friday night dance party. BOYZCLUB will be **THE place to be seen** this weekend! Check out the all new **VIP areas** in the Edge...and don't miss the **underwear fashion show** on the Warehouse stage, presented by **Rajuan**. **Free breakfast** (eggs, sausage, bacon, etc.) will be served at 3 am. Music by **DJ Rodney**, **DJ Freaky**, and **The Legendary District House Mother SEDRICK**!

At the Edge. $12 before 9 pm. $15 after. *Pride Passes Honored.*

soft 'n' wet

Saturday, May 27 1:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Join **Miz Vicki** and her **beautiful female dancers** for the most popular women's event of Pride Weekend! Featuring the comedic talents of **M.C. Lucky** and music by **BJ The DJ** and **Tawanna**. Hosted by **Sophisticated Ladies**--It's a Miz Vicki thang!

At Wet. $15.

Tina's TALK SHOW

Saturday, May 27 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Ever wonder what would happen if a **drag queen** had her own **talk show**? Join host **Tina Tuna Adams** and her **superstar drag queen guests** for the **real dirt** on drag life. **Wigs** will fly! **Makeup** will run! Featuring the diva talents of: The Queen of Dupont Circle, **Xavier Bloomingdale**... the always vivacious **Vickii Vox**... and other surprise guests. Cohosted by **Tink Cole** and music by **DJ Big O**.

At the Edge. $5.

Information & Directions

We're the official nightclub sponsor of Black Pride!

BLGPD

The Edge & Wet Nightclubs congratulate **DC Black Pride** on their 10th Anniversary! As **official nightclub sponsors**, we encourage everyone to take part in the Millennium Celebration, to be held at the **Washington Convention Center** on **Sunday, May 28, 2000**. For more information, check out **www.dcblackpride.org**!

The Edge & Wet would also like to express our sincere **thanks** to everyone who attended last year's **Memorial Day** events. This year will be even **BIGGER** than last, with a **huge circus tent**, eight additional bars, **faster entrances,** and an all-new **Warehouse**. And just like we've done every year, we'll bring you the **hottest go-go boys**, the **fiercest performers**, and the **best DJs** from around the country. Come be part of the **experience!**

Advance ticket packages are on sale for $50

GEN. ADM.
THE EDGE NIGHTCLUB
56 L STREET SE WDC
BOYZCLUB
FRIDAY, MAY 26, 2000
DOORS OPEN AT 9PM
ARRIVE EARLY
$15.00 ADULT
GEN ADM.
0001
6/15-7/15 '00

VIP Advance Ticket Packages are on sale now for **only $50.** You'll have admission to **every event** listed in this guide, entry in various raffles throughout the weekend, and **priority entry*** to the venues. **You save over $50** by buying your tickets in advance, and you can avoid waiting in those long lines.

To order a VIP Advance Ticket Package, or for more information, please call **(202) 488-1200** or visit **www.edgewet.com.**

All major credit cards accepted. Tickets are limited.

* **Priority entry does not bypass venue capacity limits.** If the venue is at capacity, you may have to wait before entering.

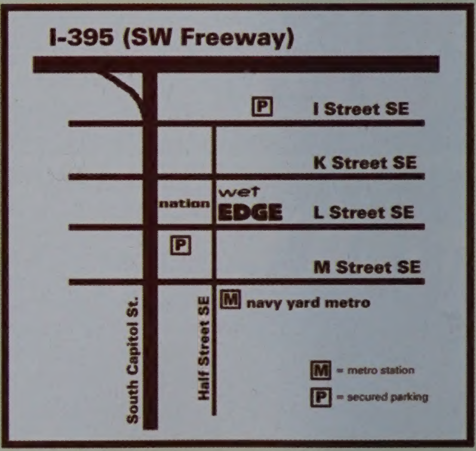
The Edge & Wet are located at 56 L Street SE, Washington DC

From Northwest DC: Take 9th Street toward National Mall. Proceed through tunnel and take left on to I-395 North. Follow overhead signs to South Capitol Street. After traffic light, exit right to avoid underpass. Take ramp to traffic light and turn left on M Street. Proceed one block and turn left on Half St. SE. Edge is located at the corner of Half and L Streets SE.

From North: Take Baltimore-Washington Parkway south to Routh 50 toward downtown Washington. Follow overhead signs to 395 Tunnel. Go through tunnel in 2nd lane from left. Exit at South Capitol St. After light, exit right to avoid underpass. Take ramp to M Street and turn left. Proceed one block and turn left on Half St. SE. Edge is located at the corner of Half and L Streets SE.

From South: Take I-395 North to Washington, DC. Continue on I-395 to exit for South Capitol St. After light, exit right to avoid underpass. Take ramp to M Street and turn left. Proceed one block and turn left on Half Street SE. Edge is located at the corner of Half and L Streets SE.

Via Metro: Take Green Line toward Anacostia. Disembark at Navy Yard Station. Use Half Street Exit. Turn right and walk one block. Edge is located at the corner of Half and L Streets SE.


I-395 (SW Freeway)
P
I Street SE
K Street SE
wet
nation
EDGE
L Street SE
P
M Street SE
M navy yard metro
South Capitol St.
Half Street SE
M = metro station
P = secured parking

★ special pull-out section ★

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MOTOR CITY MADNESS

DETROIT'S
PREMIER BLACK GAY EVENT

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MISS. REGINE PAGEANT 10:00 THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2000

Tyianna Hunter will host the battle for the hottest title in Detroit as several Female Illusionist from the mid-west compete. Every house in the city will be represented. This is an event you won't want to miss. Come see the special production number by the house of Rodeo.

WET JOCK STRAP CONTEST & MALE DANCE REVIEW 10:00 FRIDAY, MAY 19, 2000

If you have what it takes to fill up a jock strap we have a cash prize to stuff in your jock. Some of the countries hottest male dancers are in town to rock your world. We had the Men of La Moncha last year, this year WE IMPORTED BIG MEN, NOT THE LITTLE BOYS YOU NORMALLY SEE.

RECOVERY LUNCH AT SOMERSET MALL 1 PM SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2000

Will be taking over Alexanders Restaurant at Somerset Mall. Call 248-813-8679 for reservations and information. After lunch it's time for our most favorite past time; SHOP, SHOP, SHOP till you drop for that outfit for the BLACK AND WHITE PARTY.

WET T-SHIRT CONTEST & FEMALE DANCE REVIEW 10:00 SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2000

If you dare to enter, it may be your day to leave the club top heavy with a cash prize for sporting the perky Brest. We also have some of Detroit's best dancers in the house. This show will be hot and wet.

BLACK AND WHITE PARTY AT THE POWER PLANT 1 AM SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2000

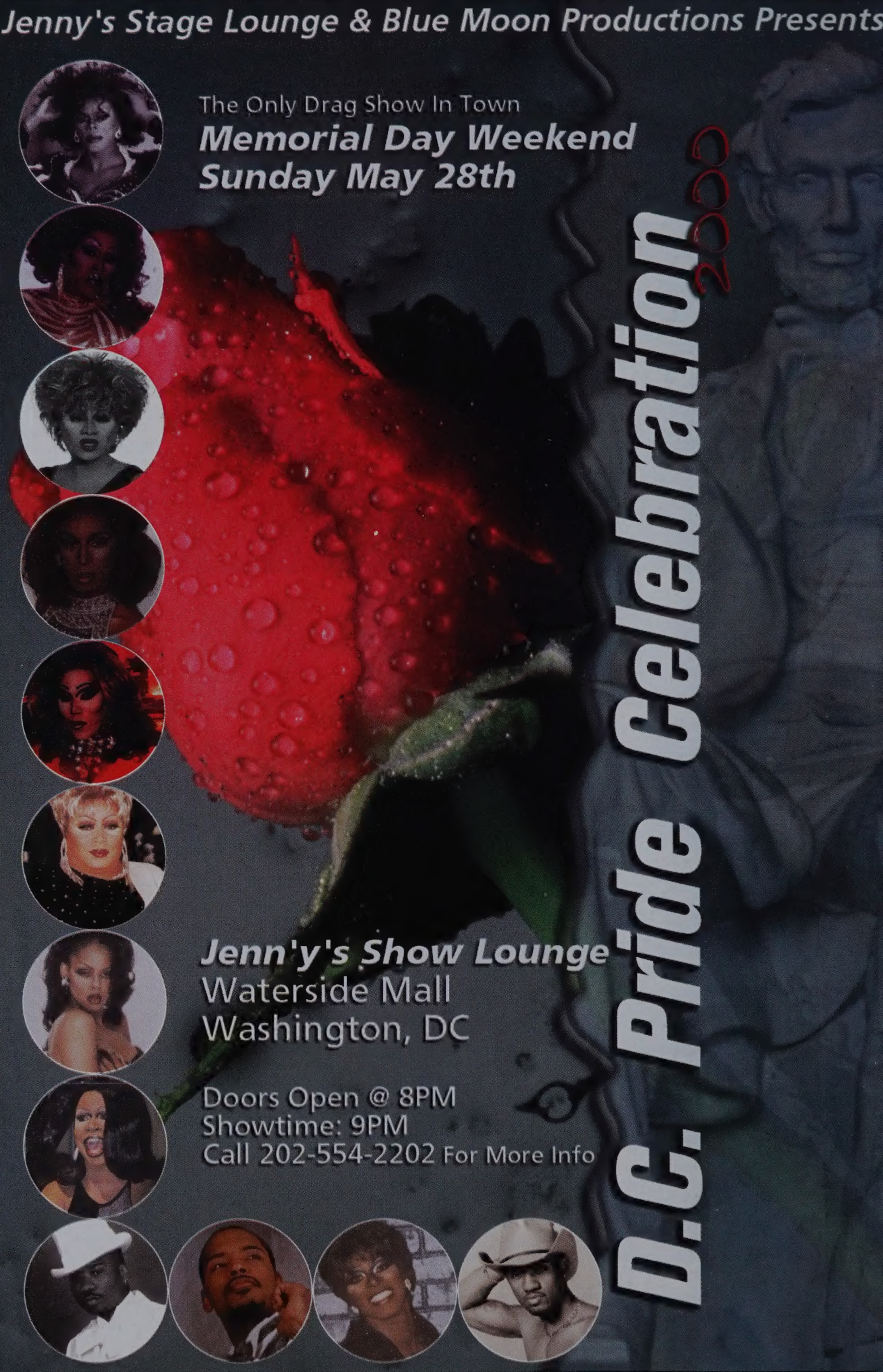
Regine's teams up with the POWER PLANT to bring you the all night squeeze bottle party. With over 1000 people expected to attend, it"s guaranteed that you will have your choice of dates to pick from. Party till 6 a.m. In the morning.

PICNIC AT PALMER PARK 1 PM SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2000

Regine's will be at the Park today, at 1 PM in full force. If you have never been to Palmer Park this is bound to be a treat. This is the gathering place for the Black Gay Community. Music will be provided by Regine's Dj"s: Jammin John Collins · Darryl G · Pirahna

REGINE'S STUD OF THE YEAR 10:00 SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2000

Leslie will host the covenant STUD OF THE YEAR PAGEANT. This is the biggest lesbian event in the Midwest. Detroit's hottest women pick the one who can walk the walk and talk the talk. With over 500 women in the club this is bound to be an event you will not want to miss.



Jenny's Stage Lounge & Blue Moon Productions Presents

D.C. Pride Celebration 2000

The Only Drag Show In Town

Memorial Day Weekend
Sunday May 28th

Jenn'y's Show Lounge
Waterside Mall
Washington, DC

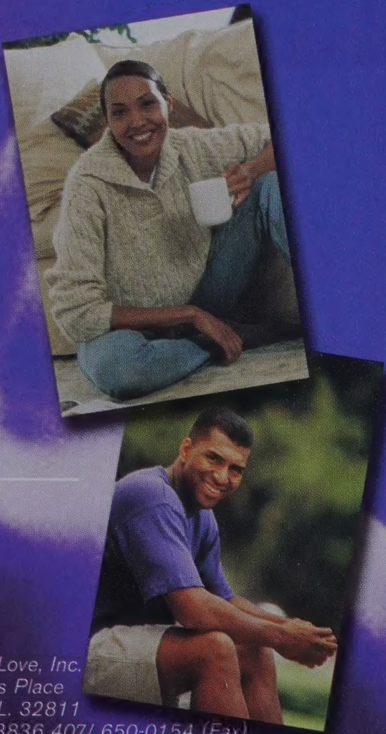
Doors Open @ 8PM
Showtime: 9PM
Call 202-554-2202 For More Info

Miracle of Love

Orlando, Fl.

*"**Me**"*

*I am the only "**Me**" I've got. I am unique. There are two major parts of me. There's the inside Me and the outside "**Me**". The out side me is what you see; the way I act, the image I portray, the way I look and the things I do. The outside "**Me**" is every important. It is my messenger to the world and much of my outside "**Me**" is what communicated with you. I value what I have done, the way I look and what I share with you. The inside "**Me**" knows all my hope and dreams. Sometime I let you know a little about the inside "**Me**" and sometimes it's a very private part of myself. Even though there is enormous number of people in this world, no one is exactly like "Me". I take full responsibility for "**Me**" and the more I find out that I am an O.K. person. I've done some good things in my life because I am a good person. I've accomplished something in my life because I am competent person. I know some special people because I am worth knowing. I celebrate the many things I have done for myself. I've also made some mistakes I can learn from. I have known people who did not appreciate "**Me**", I do not need to keep those people in my life. I've wasted some precious time. As long as I can see, hear, feel, think, change, grow and behave, I have great possibility. I'm going to take those risks and those possibilities, and I'm going to grow and love and be and **CELEBRATE; I'M WORTH IT.***



Miracle of Love, As the oldest minority AIDS service organization in Orange County, Miracle of Love, Inc. has built a tradition spanning over 8 years of providing a viable source of information, support, community advocacy, and referral services. Founded in 1993, MOLs mission is to provide services, prevention education, information, referrals, advocacy, and medical care to persons of color in the Orlando - Area 7 EMA.

Services

- *Education Center*
- *Transitional Case Management*
- *Community Outreach*
- *Support Group*
- *HIV Testing Program*
- *6 Bed ALF Housing Program*
- *Limited Mental Health Provider*
- *Spiritual Program*
- *Support Group for Gay Men of Color*
- *Ryan White Case Management*

Miracle of Love, Inc.
4530 Evers Place
Orlando, FL. 32811
407/ 650-3836 407/ 650-0154 (Fax)
E-Mail LSTAFFO1@bellsouth .net
Operating Hours Monday through Friday
9:00am to 9:00pm
ALF Housing Operating Hours 24

You're Not Alone
Help Is Available

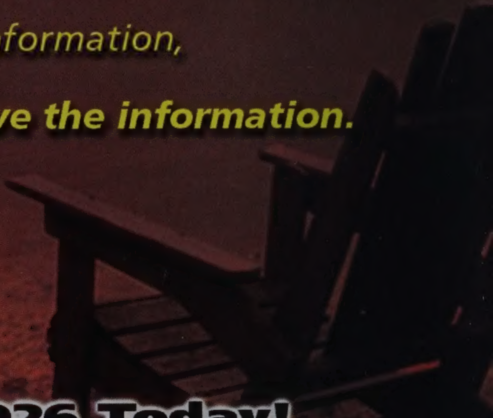
Peer Counselors Available to Listen,
to Talk and to Help.

AIDS
Survival Project
A coalition of people affected by HIV

Whether it's questions about going back to work, the newest drugs, or concerns about how to have a full and safe sex life.

We know the information,

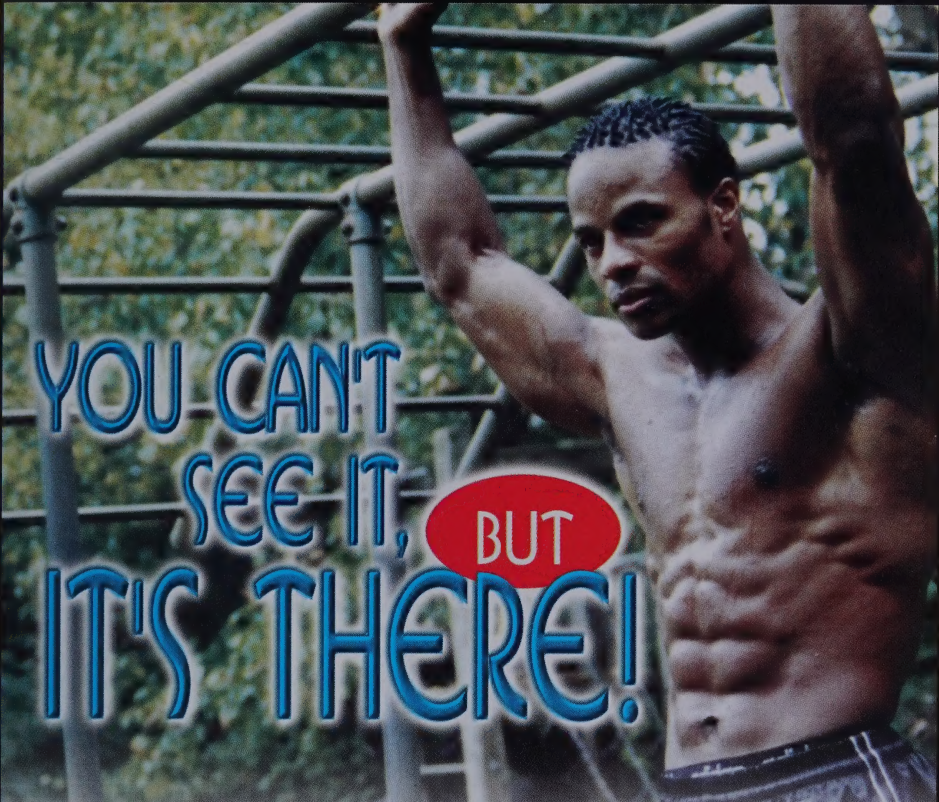
because we live the information.



Call 404-874-7926 Today!

We're available by phone or in person
Mondays — Fridays 10AM til 5PM
also Tuesdays 10AM til 8PM

Renaissance III is a Dallas based organization serving African Americans in the fight against HIV/AIDS.



DON'T JUDGE A BOOK BY IT'S COVER

HIV Comes in various packages. There are white ones, black ones, big ones, small ones, short ones, tall ones, sexy ones, and not so sexy ones. You can't identify an HIV infected person by just looking at them. Therefore, always use a Latex Condom and a waterbased lubricant when intimate with that special person. When used properly, latex condoms are effective against HIV, STDs and Pregnancies

RENAISSANCE III

2606 MLK Blvd., Dallas, Texas 75215

214-421-4343

Call Us! We Can Assist, Even If You Live Outside Dallas.

— Services —

Social Security Disability Assistance
• HIV Education
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HIV Support Group• HIV Mentoring Program

— Referrals —

Housing
Case Management
Food Programs
Free Medical Treatment
Free HIV Testing Transportation
Substance Abuse Treatment

Concept, Design, Illustration & Marketing By: Clikque Graphics • 404-817-3898

Model Represented Here Is Being Used For Illustration Only. His HIV status is not known

Trans-Central Station

By Teryl-Lynn Foxx — Miss Clikque America 2000

As human beings, as well as transgenders, there are many people who pass in and out of our lives. There are many from whom we learn life's lessons and from whom we draw our strength, fortitude and courage to face the ridicule, rejection, and maybe physical assaults because we do not fit another person's gender perception.

Teryl-Lynn Foxx and Family LR: Kim-*Brother*, David-*Father*, Bobbie-*Sister*, Louise-*Mother*, Terry

This month's column is dedicated to the memory of my mother, Louise Patterson Sanders, who recently passed from this life into an eternal life into the heavens. A strong, loving and supporting mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, she taught me the values, respect of persons and that I should depend upon God to supply my every need. It was she who taught me how to be a lady. Thank you, Sweetpea, for allowing me to pass through your life, and for the maternal instincts which allowed you to know when I had hit a rough spot and didn't want to disturb you with a problem. Thank you also for trying to understand and support my being. I love you, Mom, and your loving spirit will live through your children, grand and great-grand children. I will not forget the lessons and guidance you have shown me to help me be a productive member of society. Rest Sweetpea. Rest.

It was my first female runway modeling job as a transgender . It was the Canadian Mist "Fashion for Misbehaving," and my model's bag was incomplete. I needed a pair of black patent leather heels and I remembered my mother had a pair—and we were the same size. Little did she know that when she was away from home, I would rummage through her things and put on her shoes to practice my model's turns and gait. When I asked my Mom if I could borrow her black patent leather pumps for the show, she responded, "You want to be a woman? Then get your own shit!" Needless to say, she didn't allow me to borrow those shoes, and that's okay because that incident was one of the many lessons my Mom taught me. Not so much on being a woman, because anybody can be a woman—but not everyone can be a lady! She taught me dining etiquette and through example, how to sit as a lady and how to disembark from a vehicle without exposing oneself—the many small lessons of life that mothers impart to their growing and maturing daughters.

I left two tickets to the Canadian Mist fashion show for her and a guest to attend. In my heart of hearts, I knew she wouldn't attend, but when I returned home after the fashion show, the tickets were gone. The next morning as we sat at the breakfast table, she said, "Had I not known my son, I would have thought you were someone's beautiful daughter." That incident, my dear readers, was the opening of the door for my Mom to understand the transgendered community.

Every now and then she would slip and introduce me as her son, but for the most part, to avoid hurt and embarrassment, she would simply introduce me as one of her children. I saw the effort she put forth and I love her for that.

Exposing one's sexual preference or gender orientation to others is never easy and I never had a discussion with my parents regarding the fact that

I enjoy intimacy with men. I didn't think it was any of their business, and if I were intimate with a female, I would never have gone home and announced , "Hey, Mom and Dad. I just boinked this woman." My sexual life is my personal business and I do not share these intimacies with family.

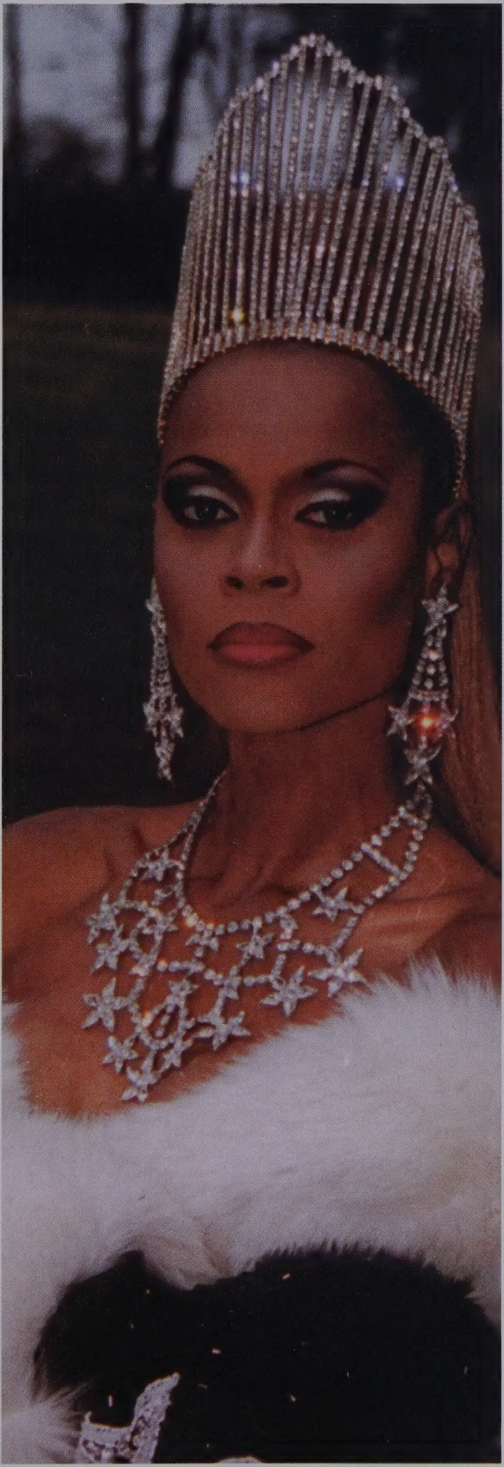
I don't want you to believe that everything was sweetness and joy. Initially, my family had problems dealing with my transition and in accepting the loss of their son. I estranged myself from them, staying away from family gatherings and social functions as I progressed further in my transition. I took great pride in being the choir director at my church, but the minister said he could not have a person such as me directing his choir. I was so hurt and felt so diminished as a person, yet I had to continue my transition to the real me. It was at my grandmother's funeral that I realized how supportive and loving my family was and the injustice I had done them in believing otherwise. They were not the problem—I had been the problem. Once my attitude changed, their loving acceptance eased my way back into the family.

Parents have a way of knowing their children. They may ignore the signs, but they know. Reality sets in when one's new identity is discovered and one is out of the closet. Whatever method you choose in expressing your being, be patient and help your family and friends in understanding your transition. Perhaps not everybody in your family will be accepting, but seek out those who are and allow them the joy of knowing you and supporting your needs. With patient communication, you may find your family can and will be an important support system in your life. It is a cold, lonely life for many gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgendered persons and we can use all the love and understanding we can get. I think that might be why we have drag mothers, drag daughters, or sisters. They become our family, our mentors, and our emotional support system.

Perhaps you may not be as fortunate as I have been in having a loving and supporting family, but you owe it to yourself and to them to rise to the greatness in all of us. Don't automatically shut them out. Although my main support system is now in heaven, I know she still loves and cares for me. It has been that love and support that has helped me arrive at the comfortable place I am today in my life.
Thanks Mom, I will make you proud of me.

Louise Patterson Sanders, July 28, 1926 – March 10, 2000 -CM-

Endless love,
Teryl-Lynn



Door655

Hey guys, Spring is here and its getting hotter. So is Door 655. A recap of last month: You met Silas, or 'RED'. Craig recalls his night of meeting him on Pine street. (No correlation with Atlanta's own CYPRESS, of course) The two have sex in the rain. As Craig sits on William's bed, that's where he ended up, remember, all of these events come back to him. He remembers that Silas reveals that he is HIV positive, AFTER they have already had sex. It was with a condom, but in the rain. The story opens here with Craig in distress.

Craig sat on the edge of the bed, his heart now racing. He really needed William now, but would he understand? Would he shut Craig out of his life for doing something so stupid?

"Hey. Wassup, Craig?" said a voice from behind the door. William was knocking. "You alright, man?" Craig collected himself and quickly wiped his tears away.

"Yeah...ummm, yeah...I'm fine, man," he coughed out. "I'll be out in a minute. What...umm..what are you cooking for breakfast?" he tried to laugh out.

"You just hurry up and get your drunk ass out of my room!" William joked. Craig's mind and heart was totally off course. Did he have A.I.D.S? Would he get sick? Would he die? The tears again began to flow.

"Come on Craig, get it together! Just go get tested. Everything will be just fine," he said to himself. He then picked himself up and wrapped a towel around his waist. He went to open the door. He made sure his face showed no signs that he had been crying. Maybe William would think he was still slightly hung over. He slowly walked down the hall way into the kitchen. William had his back turned. He was reaching up in one of the cabinets. He stood there in only some boxers. His calves flexed as he reached for some cereal.

"All I got is cereal, man," he said as he slowly turned around. "Oh...um...I guess you need some clothes," he said with an embarrassed look on his face.

"That would be a good idea, unless you want me to stroll around here half naked."

"You ain't got nothin I wanna see or haven't seen, Craig."

"Is that so?" Craig said with a grin.

"Um...I'll get some shorts and a T-shirt for ya. There's the cereal, the milk is in the fridge, and here's a bowl. Help yourself. I'm gonna get my shower now," William said has he passed Craig. "I'll leave the shorts and shirt out on the bed." And he disappeared down the hall and into his bedroom. Craig got some milk and prepared his cereal. He sat down and began to eat. Suddenly, a vision of Silas flashed through his mind. He dropped his spoon into his cereal. His appetite was gone.

"How could I be so stupid? What was I thinking?" he questioned himself. He soon heard the shower running. He figured that the coast was clear for him to put on the clothes that William had laid out. He walked down the hallway and into the bedroom. The door was cracked and the steam escaped from the opening. He could really hear the water running now. Another flash of Silas passed across his eyes, his water drenched face turning back to look him in the eyes. Craig blinked and shook his head. Yet Silas would not flee his mind.

****

Silas stood there in the rain. He saw headlights in the distance, but he didn't care. All he thought about was Craig. He had fucked up again. Honesty had failed him once more. The rain blended with his tears as he began to walk the desolate street. The car sped by, splashing water on his already soaking wet clothes. But God was looking out for him, the rain turned into a light drizzle. Although the street was desolate, he realized that he wasn't too far from home. Another set of headlights appeared in the distance. Silas continued walking, oblivious to the fact that the car was slowing down. It pulled up close to him. The window slowly rolled down.

"Hey, I thought that was you. You need a ride?" Silas wiped his face to clear his vision. He crouched down and squinted to see the dark figure behind the wheel.

"Ah man...not you," he said as he straightened up and walked closer to the window.

"At least you can act like you glad to see me. What you doin out here so late, anyway?"

"You know me, the street life is the life I know best."

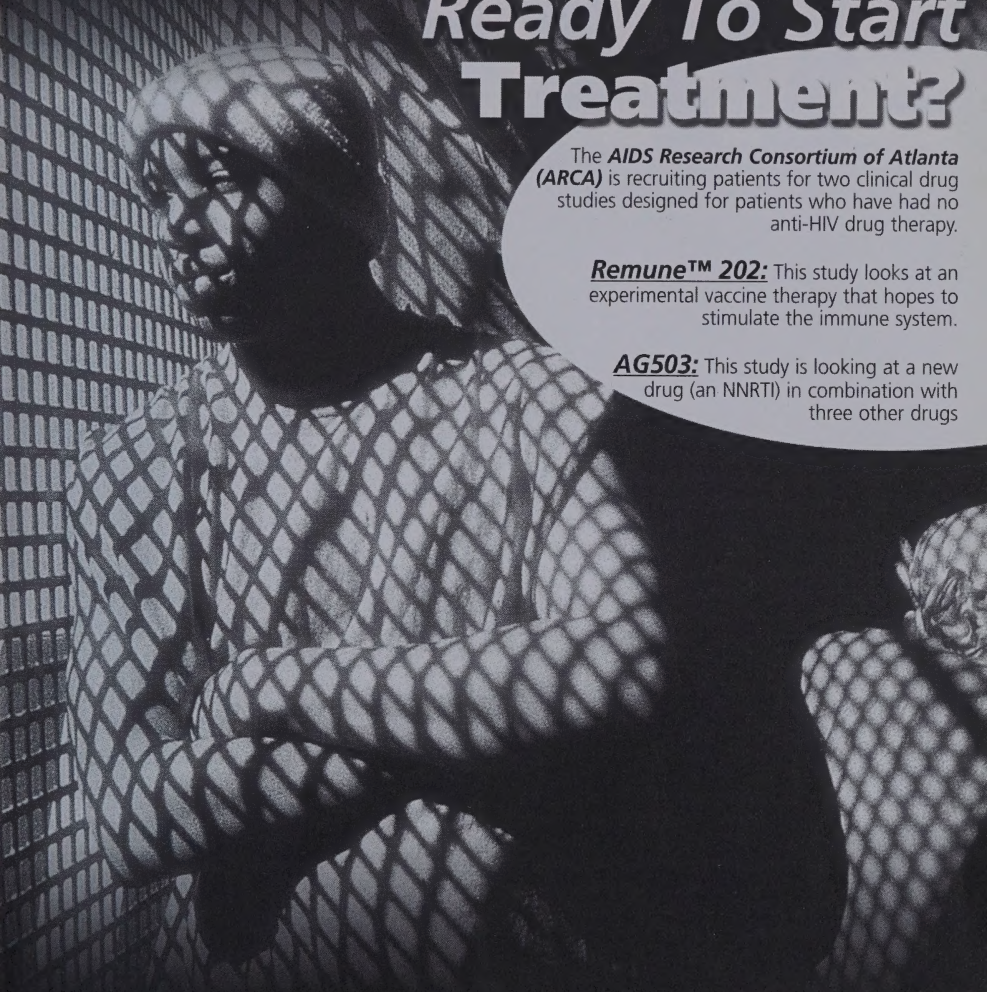
"Yeah, that's what's gonna get yo ass in trouble. Anyway, you wanna ride? I know you ain't too far from home, but I can give you a lift. Look at you, you soaked, man." Silas closed his eyes, took a deep breath and walked across to the passenger side of the car. He opened the door and got in. The car was in motion.

"Why are you so wet? What have you been gettin into tonite?" Silas just closed his eyes and sank deeper into his seat.

Door 655 Continues On Page 72

OK, You're HIV+

Ready To Start Treatment?



The ***AIDS Research Consortium of Atlanta (ARCA)*** is recruiting patients for two clinical drug studies designed for patients who have had no anti-HIV drug therapy.

Remune™ 202: This study looks at an experimental vaccine therapy that hopes to stimulate the immune system.

AG503: This study is looking at a new drug (an NNRTI) in combination with three other drugs

If you qualify for and enroll in either of these studies, you will be monitored closely, and laboratory tests, study visits and study drug and provided at no charge.

ARCA understands the emotions and challenges involved after being diagnosed HIV+, and has developed a program for newly diagnosed patients. **On Wednesdays between 9:00AM and 5:00PM**, we have trained counselors and clinicians on hand, who will gladly assist you with taking that important ***next*** step.

ARCA
AIDS Research Consortium of Atlanta
Working Together For A Cure

Now That You Know You're HIV+. Take the next step for Treatment.
Call 404-872-CURE
www.aidsresearchatlanta.org

This service is provided at no cost to you and includes:

- The most recent HIV treatment information
- Physician referral
- Community support program information
- details about new clinical trails

the Opulent House of

BVLGARi

Presents

What Had Happened? Ball

detroit,mi

sun., june, 11th, 2000

Come Join Us...

In Hurling the EVIL Queen Uglena Back into the Abyss!! The Battle Royal takes place in the City of Detroit, Mi.

Legends, Statements, & Stars Begins Promptly @ 12:30am. Queen Uglena will definitely be on time to turn it....WILL YOU?

Once upon a Millennium, a fierce house in the Mystically Magical, and Ferociously Fierce land of Detroit, decided to have the ultimate affair to remember, for the KIDDZ of the land to carry on. But unbeknownst to them, they had haters... And the Queen of all Haters, The Royal pain Herself, Sister of Medusa, Duchess of Deception; Royal Perpetrator of Perpetual Faginess... QUEEN UGLENA, decided to rear her ugly head. She and her legion of rocks, (all of which are legendary for their boulder-like qualities), created such chaos and mayhem, that the dream the Opulent House had hoped to bring to the KIDDZ of DETROIT got washed down the drain.... WHAT SHADE!!!

Houses from all over the realm and beyond, were in such disgust over being used in such a fashion (as were we all) that they felt the need to do battle once again, this time VOWING to turn Uglena and her Minions. So, coming to the rescue (once again), the Opulent House of Bvlgari has set out to bring the light back to all the land, and set right all the wrongs that Uglena has thrust upon the masses.

Come prepared to Serve, Eat, and Destroy the Forces of Uglena: Pettiness, Shadiness, and Over-all Trifling Behavior. Help us in our struggle to REFACE HOUSE UNITY.

For More Info Call John/Eric @ 313-931-4385
or David @ 22-580-792

@ The Tom Phillip Post
10235 Gratiot

email: opulententerprises@hotmail.com

Door 655 Continued From Page 66

******

Visions of Silas left Craig's head long enough for him to dress in the clothes that William had left out. He lifted the shorts to see if William had given him some underwear.

"Damn, I couldn't be so lucky," he said and grinned to himself. He slid into the shorts and pulled the shirt over his head. Soon, he heard the water stop running. He then heard William's baritone voice attempting to sing:

"Love, oh love, stop making a fool of meeeee!" Craig's heart began to race. He couldn't control the tears this time. He was now bawling. His whole body shook. This was the same song that was playing when Silas sprang the news of his HIV status. The same song that was playing when he kicked Silas out of his car. There was no stopping it now. William was on his way out and would see the tears. He hummed as he took one quick glimpse of himself in the mirror. He walked out into his bedroom and found a devastated, tearful Craig on the edge of his bed, wearing William's favorite shorts and T-shirt. He didn't know what to say. He didn't know what to do. He stood there for a minute or two just staring at his broken-spirit friend.

"Craig...what's up, man," he finally questioned. Craig was so engrossed in his state of sadness that he couldn't speak. So there William stood in complete silence; puzzled by the tears, yet concerned with compassion. Seeing another man cry made his own heart a little weak. It wasn't a tear or two, it as all out water works with trembling and sniffling. William was torn. He was afraid. His heart said comfort this fellow human being. But his head said remember what happened the last time that you consoled this gay man. Minutes later, the two organs came to a compromise. William walked over and sat on the bed, inches from Craig, but he would not touch him. Craig continued crying, but slowly gained control. The trembling subsided, but the tears continued to well up in his eyes.

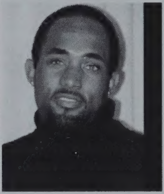
"I'm sorry William. I didn't mean for you to see...to see me like this, man," he said sniffling as he spoke.

"It's aite, man. Are you aite?"

"Um...uh..yeah. I'm aite." William had a strange feeling that this had something to do with his Uncle Wes. But he would not bring it up. It wasn't the time for it now.

"William, we really need to talk," Craig said as he subconsciously rested his hand on William's thigh. This caught William off guard and in seconds, he felt his dick begin to rise.

"I....I....I don't know where to begin, William. You....Us...Your Uncle; Tony or Wes, whatever his name is....It's all...Its just all so fucking crazy!" Craig continued rambling as William tuned out his voice. He didn't understand why his dick was rising. Before he knew it, Craig was crying into his shoulder. William slowly lifted his arms and wrapped them around him. The harder Craig cried, the tighter William held him. Craig felt William's grip tighten. Comfort and sheer amazement stopped his tears. William was actually holding him again. He closed his eyes to savor the moment. The strength, the power, the warmth...those arms could have lulled him to sleep, but they didn't. They ignited a desire. Craig slowly lifted his head. His ear pushed across William's chin. Still in William's embrace, he raised his head a little more. Cheek to cheek, he sat there in silence. Craig parted his lips to let the slightest breath escape his mouth and pass across William's cheek. A little higher, he lifted his head. Now, their lips were millimeters from each other. Craig couldn't resist. He didn't care if William knocked the shit out of him. He was going for it. Their lips touched. The warmth of William's lips sent waves through him. However, William did not move. His eyes were clenched and his lips remained stationary. It was as if Craig was attempting to give a good night kiss to a sleeping relative.



written by senior staff writer
Queshan Hayes atlanta, ga.

Craig then opened his mouth and let the tip of his tongue slip out. He tasted every inch of William's lips. The warmth, the smell, the electricity made his heart race. For an entire minute, he tried to kiss William lightly and cautiously. Yet, William did not respond. Just when he was about to give up, he felt William's embrace tighten, again. Craig's eyes shot wide open in amazement. Still lip to lip, he looked William in the face. His zombie expression changed into a tense, stressed expression. His eyes now were shut tight. His lips opened and began to devour Craig's lips. His grip around Craig was so tight, Craig's breathing was affected. But he didn't care. William was kissing him back! Finally, getting over the shock, Craig decided to participate. They both hungrily devoured each other's lips. What was he doing? William was actually kissing another man! He wanted to stop, but he couldn't. He wanted to let go of Craig and run into the world, but he couldn't. He wanted to jump on his bike, ride far away and scream, but he couldn't. All that he could do was sit there, hold this man, and kiss him!

******

Soon, they pulled up into the parking garage. Silas was silent the whole ride.

"It's been a long time, huh, Silas, or should I say 'Red'?"

"Yeah, its been a minute," Silas responded. He knew what this meant. He wanted to come upstairs, not spend the night, just come up for a little while.

"So, what are you doin tomorrow?"

"I don't know, I got an interview with this company down town."

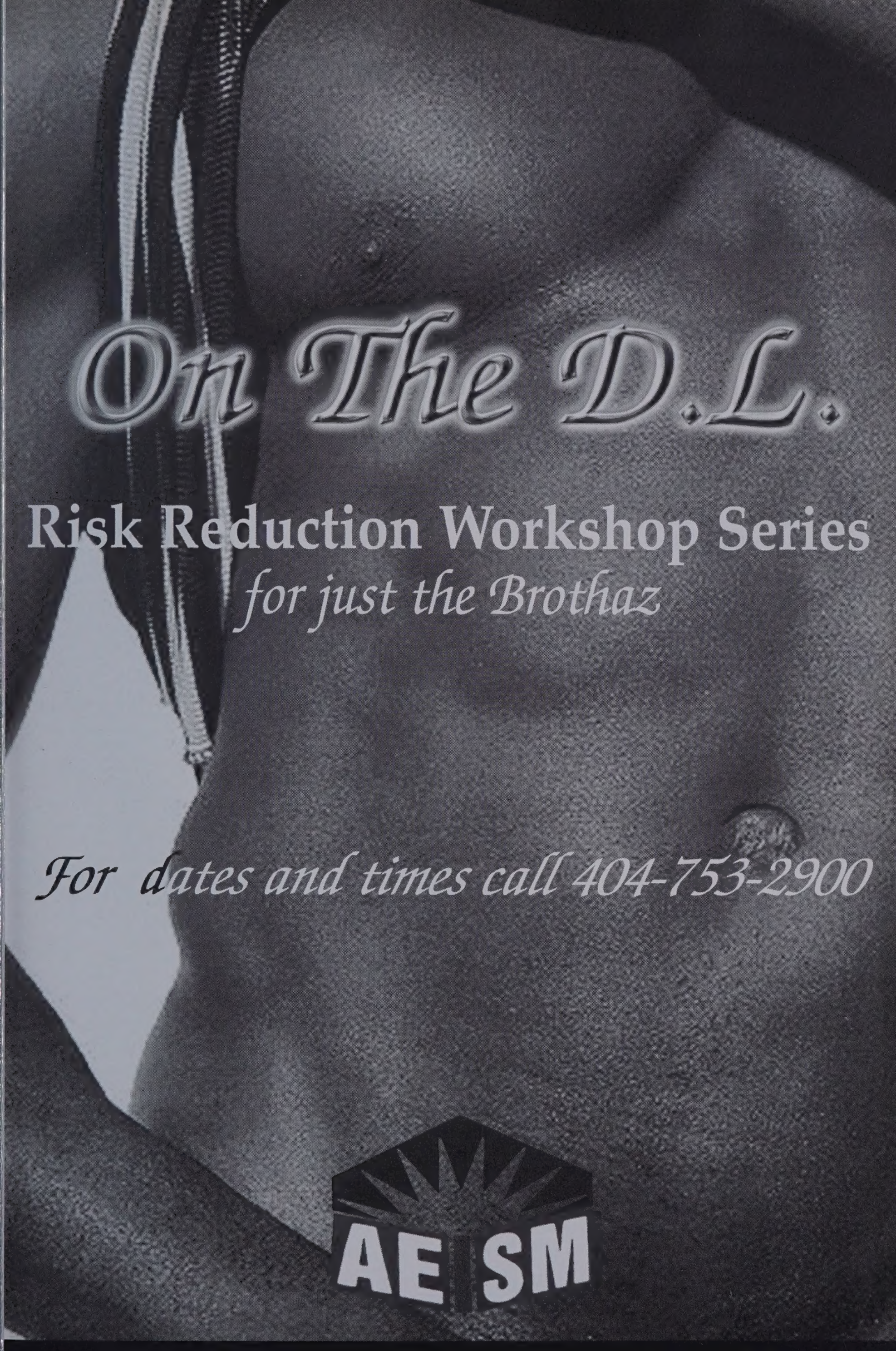
"Sounds good. So...can I...ahhh...come up?" Silas thought deep and hard. What lie to tell this time. Fuck it! He would just tell him.

"Ummm...Nah, not tonite, Wes."

"Hey, that's Tony to you, boy."

"Whateva yo." And he was on his way up to his apartment and the car backed out and disappeared in the distance. Wes was turned down.

Stay tuned to next month. –CM–



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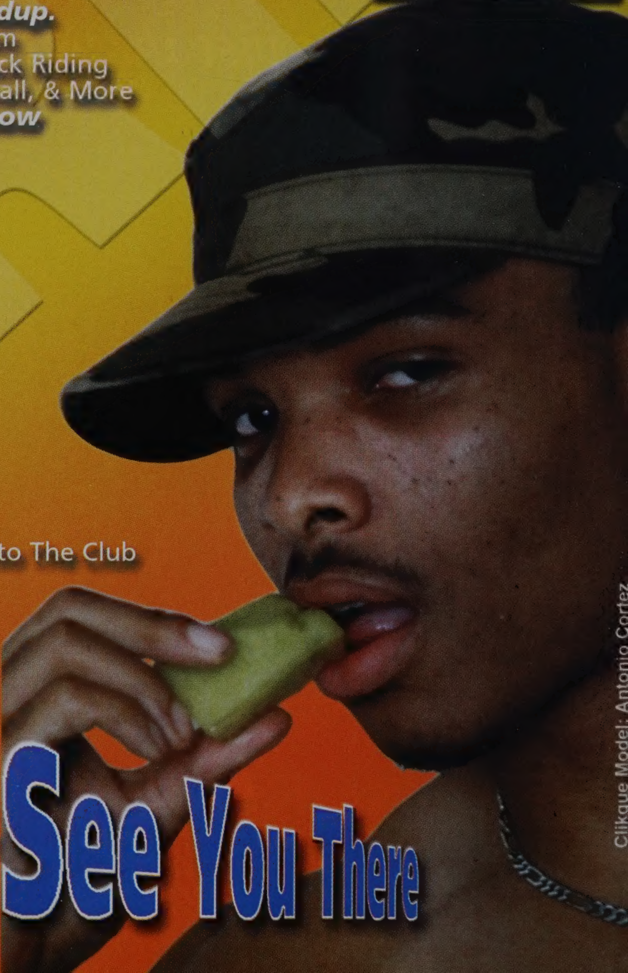

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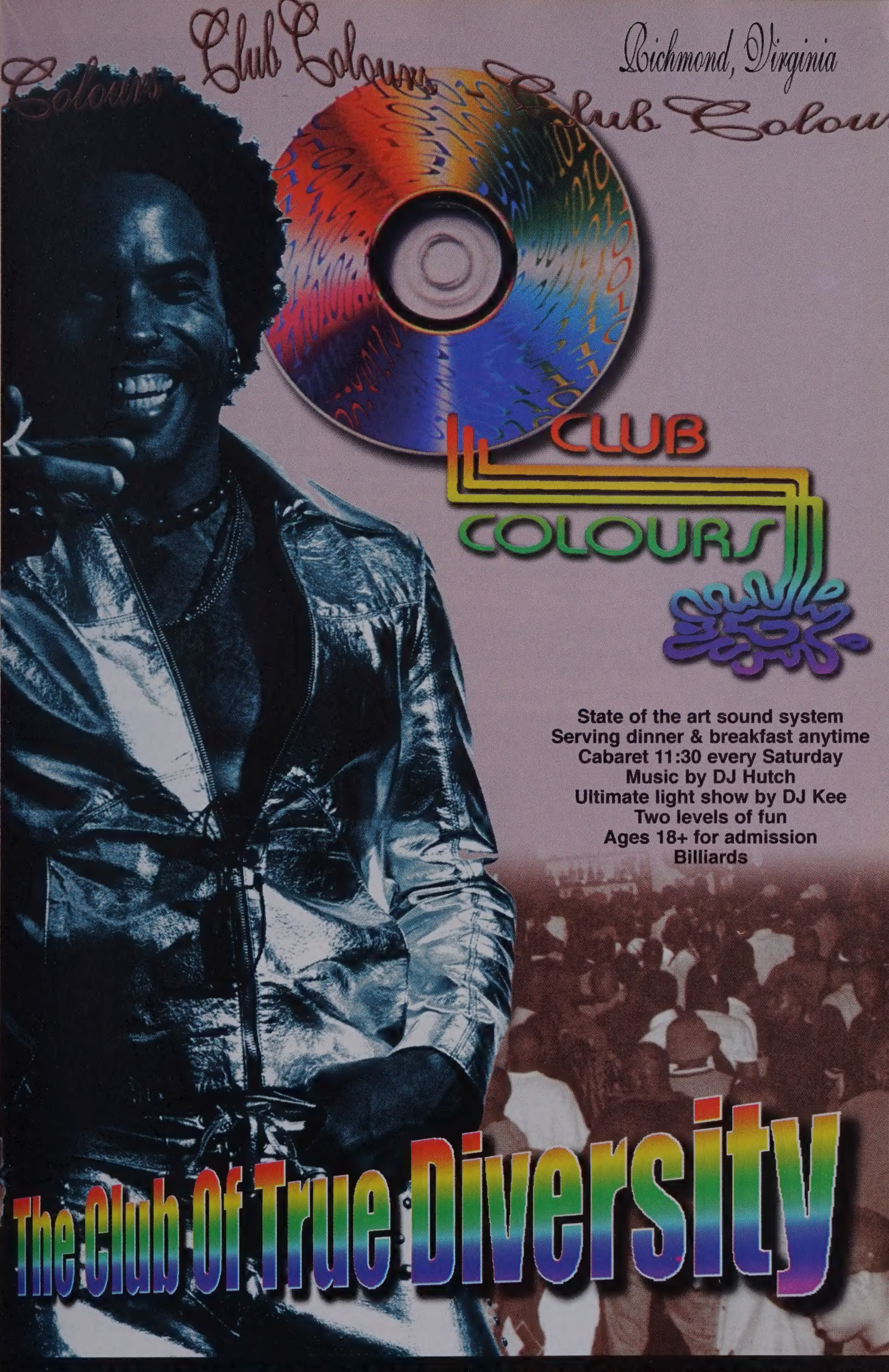
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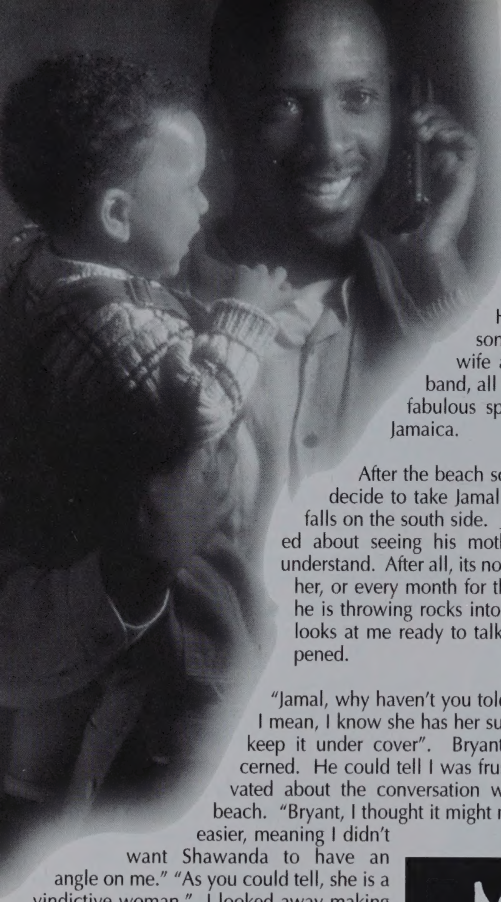

My Son His Life
By Jhahbriel C.E. Moore-Collins

Well now at this point the vacation is becoming more of a war zone type of affair. Here we are my son, my lover, my ex-wife and her new husband, all in one of the most fabulous spots in the world, Jamaica.

After the beach scene, Bryant and I decide to take Jamal to see the waterfalls on the south side. Jamal is still excited about seeing his mother, which I can understand. After all, its not everyday he sees her, or every month for that matter. While he is throwing rocks into the water, Bryant looks at me ready to talk about what happened.

"Jamal, why haven't you told her about us?" " I mean, I know she has her suspicions but, why keep it under cover". Bryant was really concerned. He could tell I was frustrated and aggravated about the conversation we all had at the beach. "Bryant, I thought it might make the situation easier, meaning I didn't want Shawanda to have an angle on me." "As you could tell, she is a vindictive woman." I looked away making sure little Jamal wasn't going anywhere. I just couldn't believe all the drama that went on at the beach. The reading and rolling of eyes we all were giving each other. I was so glad little Jamal hadn't caught on to what was going on.

It was time to return to the hotel. We all were tired and I could use a nap. Jamal had already fallen asleep and Bryant was carrying him over his shoulder. I couldn't wait to return to the room. "Honey, can you get him ready for bed, I am going down to the sauna and relieve some tension with the steam." I couldn't wait to get into the sauna. The steam is so good for your skin. At least that is what Miss America says. While Bryant was getting little Jamal ready, I had made my way down to the hotel's sauna.

The room was empty which made me very happy. Some peace and quite all to myself. I am sitting in the back of the sauna with the steam just hitting my body. Sweat dripping from my body like I was in the shower. The feeling that was like I was being purified made whole, making a fresh start. I put a hotel towel over my eyes and laid back to enjoy this moment. God knows how long it was going to last. And then, I spoke too soon. The door opens and in walks somebody. I didn't even take my towel off my eyes. I just knew it was Bryant coming to check up on me. He has always been the jealous type. It is refreshing sometimes, even an ego booster but other times it is a headache.

"So how long have you been here". A voice that wasn't too familiar was echoing in the room. It startled me and I jumped up. As I jumped up the towel came off my face and the towel I had wrapped around my waste fell off too. I was a nervous wreck. As I am grabbing my towel, I looked up and it was no one other than Antonio, Shawanda's husband. "What are you doing here!" I looked at him with a look of total embarrassment. "Well this is our hotel also and I thought I would come down and wait for Shawanda." He just stood there with his arms folded. "Oh God she is coming down here now?" I was too through by this time. "Well let me get my things and give you too honeymooners some privacy." "I am sure she would want that." As I am leaving, Antonio keeps looking at me. I stop, then looked back. "What's wrong?" I had a look like, what now. I know I wasn't given him too much drama after all, I think we have had enough on the beach. "Nothing man, I just was trying to figure you out." He had a puzzled look on his face.
As he is saying this, he is holding his penis in his hand. The towel was still covering it. He just was trying to give this thug look. I mean how much thug can you give in a sauna.

"Hey, Jamal!" Antonio yelled as I was walking out. "We need to talk whenever you get a chance man." He sounded very serious. I just kept walking shaking my head. What was Antonio up to? What is really going on with him?

Continued next month........

Hey readers give me some feedback at clikquem@aol.com

—CM—

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What Becomes A Legend?

Who says that they don't care about status? Even those of us who don't think about it daily, wonder from time to time about our own status, if not someone else's. We think about it at work when we feel we deserve a promotion. We think about it at the bar or club when the bartender charges you regular price but gives your friend a free drink because of who he is. We think about it when we watch awards shows and someone is inducted into that ceremony's 'hall of fame'. We also think about it as we shop for clothes and pay attention to what others are wearing. Status makes us want to be, be like or have what others are or have, especially if they are famous.

We all know that the higher you are ranked on a particular totem pole, is a direct result of age, experience, knowledge and achievements. The same is the case in the ballworld, where one's persistence, creativity, demeanor and achievements earn them different levels of status. Winning 1 or 2 trophies doesn't make you a Legend. You may be hot for that moment, but that is it, unless you consistently follow up time and again with creative productions, originality and good showmanship.

It is important that this article be written at this point in time. The ballroom scene has grown very quickly to different parts of the United States, but there were only a few rules to govern the original ballscene from the old days in Harlem, NY. For example, in the "old days", balls were few and far between. Therefore, when it was ball time, each ball was crowded with people who had months to prepare, making the competition stiffer. Winning at least 3 times would get you noticed. Win 10 times and you were considered 'legendary' for your category, but not a Legend all-around. Also, your status depended on whose ball you won at. Winning at Paris Dupree's annual 'Paris is Burning' ball or Pepper LaBeija and Dorian Corey's 'Harlem Fantasy' ball or Avis Pen'davis' ball definitely got you recognized as those were the 3 major balls to be seen at. Mini-balls, at that time, didn't contribute towards your trophy count because they were for practice and fun.

The ballscene grew quite rapidly during the late 80's and early 90's with Washington D.C., Philly and Baltimore establishing themselves as cities to be contended with. Now, there are balls and mini-balls in Boston, Newark, Richmond, Norfolk, Chicago, Charlotte, Miami, Atlanta, Detroit, San Francisco and Los Angeles as well. Obviously the old rules can no longer apply. Now, its harder to rise up in status as you have to make a name for yourself in your home city as well as others, just to be recognized.

In all fairness, everyone is entitled to know where he or she stands. Therefore a system of status has been created here in Atlanta and hopefully will spread to include the whole ball system, so that we are all in agreement.

written by staff writer
Danny Galliano Chislom
atlanta, ga.

If you have walked only a few balls and have less than 3 trophies to your credit you are a Beginner. You basically have your work cut out for you, as you are the lowest on the totem poll. As you become "hot" on the ball scene and people start to realize who you are and have at least 3 trophies in about a year's time you are a Star. The next level of achievement is the level of Statement. This means you have been on the scene 2-3 years and everyone in your city knows you, you are known for turning your category or categories out and have traveled out of your city to be recognized. Up and Coming is the next status level. You are a legend in at least one category, meaning you have won it a lot of times, including at major balls where the competition was very stiff. You may also be known for another category and you have traveled to different cities, where other people know you as well. You should be on the ball scene for at least 5 years for this status. The highest level of achievement is that of all around Legend. This means you have been on the scene for at least 7 years, and are known in every city. Within the realm of being a Legend there is also what is known as Icon Legends. These are people from the old school (over 10 years ago) who have paved the way for everyone who walks today and have helped put many others on the map. Today's new kids may not know all the Legends or Icon Legends, but respect is due to them upon meeting them, hearing their name or seeing them on tape. It is they who have made it possible for the ballscene to be what it is today.

I hope that this article set straight any confusion or misconceptions of what levels of status exist, what you must do to achieve your desired level of status and what becomes a Legend most. —CM—

Photos From The Milan Ball

Sunday - April 16th 2000

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Sole Continued From Page 28

After a long pause, we both had to reflect on this horrible thought. The mood changed and I mentioned to Solé that she is beautiful. Noting that she no doubt hears this all the time she responded to the idea that both men and women would be attracted to her.
“I’m a person who is real comfortable with my sexuality and it does not bother me at all. Some of my very best friends in the world are gay men.... I have had women come up to me and say ‘I love you” and that they have my pictures all over their walls... It’s flattering and uncomfortable because I don’t know how to react to it. I guess I’m blessed because I could be someone who no one finds attractive so I guess I’m blessed and flattered. I’m not uncomfortable around gay women but it was awkward when they approach me because I do not know how to react to it... I’m not offended and I don’t want to offend anyone. I don’t want to be offensive in my reaction to them because it’s not like that. I am uncomfortable when men or women say these things to me because it is all so new to me and it’s still very amazing to me that people look at me like that.”

Solé has built her life on the foundation of being true to herself and taking care of those she loves. She keeps a tight inner circle of friends and family while making sure that her children take top priority in her life. She has even taken them on tour with her, which she says was a nightmare. ‘They got tired of getin on and off planes and riding in the cars.” She goes on to say her daughter said “‘we just go from car to plane to car to plane...,’ obviously they were bored... next time I think they will have more fun if we are on a bus because they can rest and see things as well.”

Speaking of building her own life regarding other entertainers who are gay, lesbian, or bisexual Solé is not sure if and when the industry will be ready for artists to be themselves and sing about their real lives and loves. “That’s a hard one,” she admits, “...because I don’t know. It’s a real hard question. I don’t like to speak for other people. I don’t care what someone says or does as long as they are not harming anyone else. I try not to judge others because that’s not my place,... there are a lot of people who would judge and condemn and laugh [at artists] ... I don’t know what would happen until it happens.”

Solé will be joining Clikque Magazine for Tampa Jamz. She states how that she hopes to be received by this hot group of men and women. “I hope everyone is open and accepting to what I’m dropping [music]. I’ve never had any bad shows. Everyone is really accepting of what I do. I was out doing shows and performing for a long time before recording in the studio so hopefully no one will be disappointed and say she sounds like this in the studio but different on stage. I sound exactly the same on stage and in the studio. Hopefully everyone will enjoy the show.”

Finally in further response about the GLBT/SGL issues Solé offers this “I grew up in church and I was taught that it was not right in God’s eyes but I believe to each his/her own.. I have begun to question why? I believe you are born gay or lesbian and I don’t know why God would allow that if it is not right.. so I’m not sure about that religious part... I cannot be opposed to something that is not offensive to me. I cannot judge anybody. I love everybody.

So there you have it, an exclusive interview with Solé on her life, career, motherhood, and the love of her life, “including Ginuwine,” says Solé. “Just know you are the first publication to hear that come out of his or my mouth because we are the first to say we’re just friends. This is confirmed for the first time to a publication/interview.”

On the question of the future of her relationship with Ginuwine, Solé offers no comment on serious plans for their relationship. –CM–

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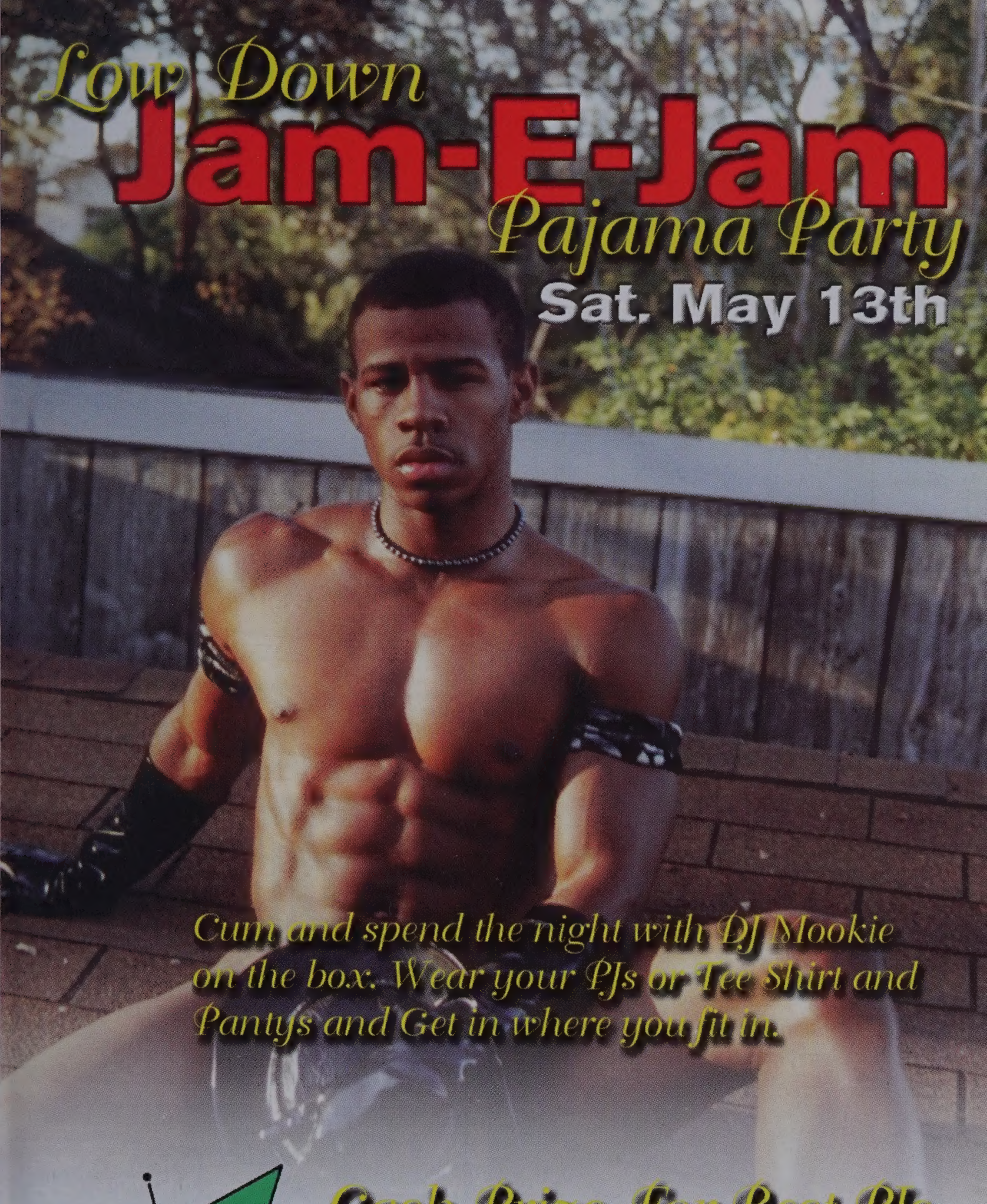

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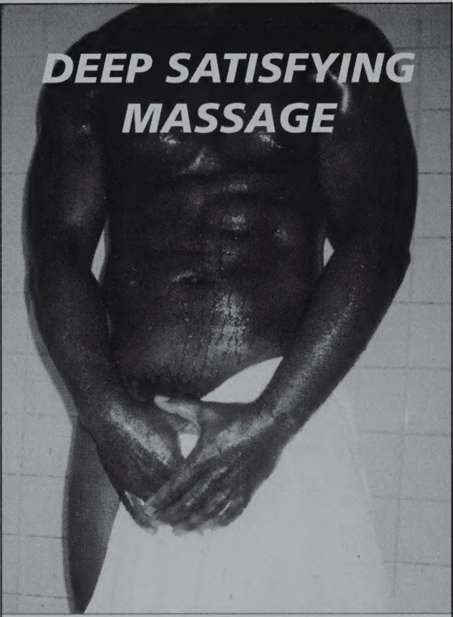

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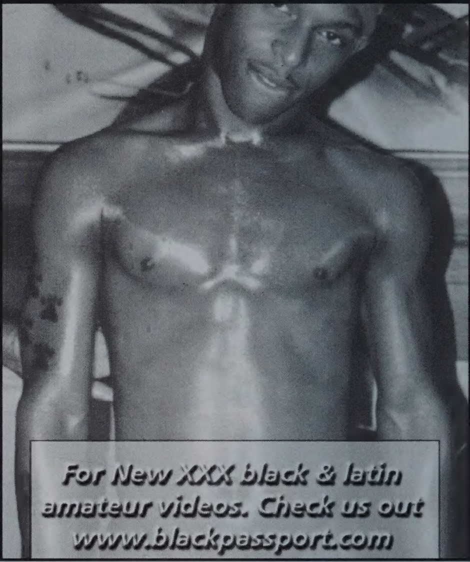

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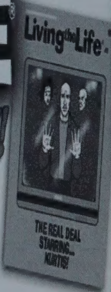

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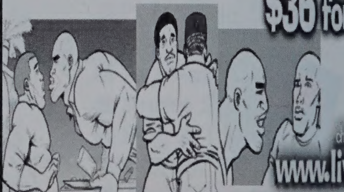

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TransForum

What About Us?

Hello, once again to all of my readers. I'm back from a long needed break. Sometimes personal issues take much longer that we anticipate to handle.. At times my issues seem to overwhelm me. This time they actually did. One day I will tell the story because I am sure that some of you have gone through something similar. Although I am still healing, I feel better than I have in months.

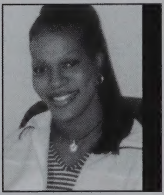
This time around we are going to talk a little politics. Very little because I'm no Senator or Congresswoman, I just have an opinion like all of you, I'm just able to write about it. The question I have been asking myself lately is, "What about us?" Now I am asking all of you. What about the transgendered community? It seems as though we are fighting an uphill battle in the world of social acceptance. Why is this the case? Well for starters we are waiting for the gay community to include us under their umbrella.

The gay community has their own battle to fight, and are making remarkable progress in society and in politics but what about us? When I see programs and events throughout the community that advertise programs, services, or events that cater to the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered) community I get really upset because it seems as though they tag on the word transgendered just to be courteous or politically correct.

It's upsetting because in my case you attend these functions thinking they may actually have something special for us and oftentimes they do not. Well, what about us? Is it that they do not take interest in us because we do not take interest in ourselves? That is a statement worth looking into.

I know for a fact that when I almost single handedly organized an event (workshop) for the transgendered community to obtain services in the local area, only one (1) person showed up. The sad part was that my supporters even offered a $25.00 stipend (cash) just for showing up. Now that may have a lot to say about why the gay and straight communities don't put much interest in us because we don't put interest in ourselves. We want so much sometimes but are willing to give so little to help make it happen. We can't always sit around and wait for others to serve us. Without paying a gratuity charge, that is.

The Black community didn't wait, the gay community didn't wait, nor can we as the trans community afford to continue to wait. We must inquire why events don't properly serve us. We must organize our own events, but we must also support those events organized to serve us. There are individuals and organizations that are willing to help us, but first we must help ourselves. We are just as important as any other social group. It's time we made our mark. What about us? Only we can truly control the answer to that question. I hope we are not still asking the same question in the years to come. Until next time.



written by staff writer
Dorian Kelly-Jahman
atlanta, ga.

—CM—

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ARIES

What you may think is a romance may only be an illusion. Be Careful! Learn to view the world without an emotionally colored lens. Use your special gifts to join with others in a spirit of genuine understanding. If you can exalt your sense of ethics and find the courage to be who you are without holding back in loneliness and disillusion, all will go well for you on the course of love's journey.

TAURUS

Follow your first thought! Explore your subconscious drives more deeply. Lookout this month for new ideas, new pursuits, and renewed creative effort. Boldly step out and do what you never thought you could do.

GEMINI

Boredom is not likely to be a problem for you this month. Allow your rebellious side to take over and enjoy the excitement that it brings to you. There is an inner freedom that comes with focused maturity and commitment. Rise to the challenge!

CANCER

Hold on to your good to rise above your personal troubles and sorrows. You have an overdeveloped sense of privacy which may provoke you to withdraw from close friends. Be mindful that this could hinder your close relationships permanently.

LEO

This is a time for inner-personal transformation. Rest in the knowledge that you won the fight with negativity and rose above it all. Don't be afraid of commitment to a relationship, it could really do you some good.

VIRGO

Its time to clean house! Stop surrounding yourself with people with negative energy. This continuous emotional suicide could lead to much depression. Think about yourself more and learn to enjoy life.

LIBRA

You will be looked to for support and advice. Know that you don't have to solve everyone's problems when you have enough to manage of your own. You are a magnet for people who may have too many issues for you to grapple with. Concentrate on yourself and learn to control your mood swings.

SCORPIO

You will attain much success if you learn to appreciate those who guide you rather than distrusting them. Your intensive effort to achieve or accomplish whatever it is that you are after will be well rewarded. Don't get caught up with emotional concerns, especially those of suspicion, defensiveness, and other distrustful attitudes. Keep your eyes on the prize!

SAGITTARIUS

Trust in the spiritual law " As within, so without." Learn to overcome your inner insecurities. You are gifted with an extremely high degree of self-assurance, but you still face demons of doubt and insecurity. Live a positive life by thinking positive and you will exude what you are thinking. Live your life with intensity and express yourself more. Someone will soon make love to a part of you that has never been thought of by anyone else before. They will make love to your spirit.

CAPRICORN

Get in touch more with your softer, more feminine side. In that place you will find intuitive and imaginative gifts. This month you will ecxel in your area of expertise. The only barriers that you may have will be created by yourself with ruthlessness and rigidity of character. Your key to success will lie in your willingness to surrender some of your considerable power in order to place yourself in the service of higher development.

AQUARIUS

Your challenge this month will be to cultivate a greater strength of character. You are approaching maturity with much grace and ease at this time. There will be much inner-personal development and a more abiding sense of values. You may be tested with a dramatic event where you will be required to use greater maturity and calmness in order to rise above it. Your natural flair for fashion, design, and trend spotting will need to be used more for what is abiding and less on what is popular.

PISCES

Avoid drama at all cost! Your self-esteem will be your protector. Focus on your own unique brand of talent and creativity. Your need to be needed can serve as a substitute for genuine self-esteem. Take care to evaluate all of your relationships and bring an end to those that are not in your best interest. You will spend a great deal of time with someone who will show you that pleasure shared is pleasure doubled.

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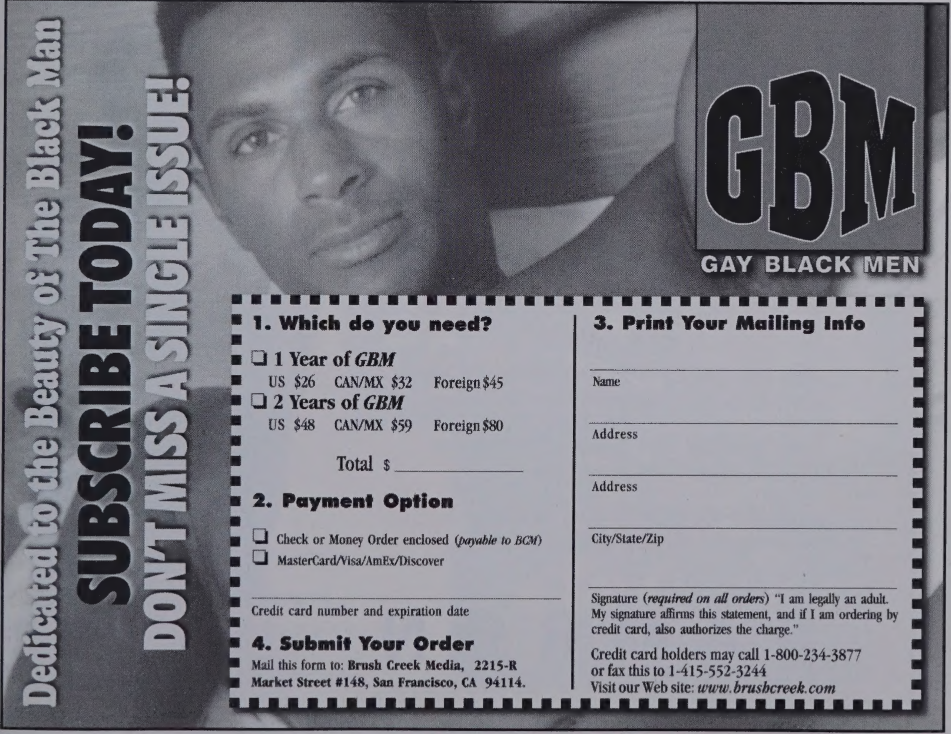

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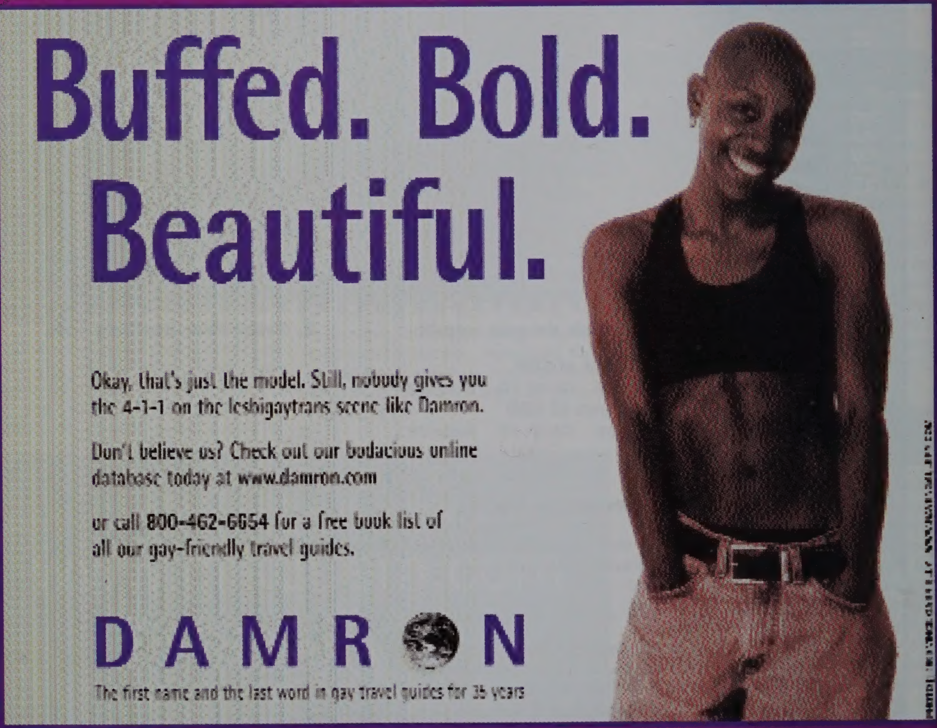

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Personals

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California

NOT INTO PAIN Gary enjoys bondage. Seeking Male under 29, lean, hard body, muscular, thin, submissive, very oral, for fun times. #21389

THANK YOU SIR Jim is a 48-year-old WM, 5'10", 183 lbs., bottom, enjoys B&D, S&M, watersports. If interested, leave a message. #10751

LET'S HOOK UP Shawn is a 26-year-old Male, 6'0", 170 lbs., good-looking, brown/blue, well-endowed. Seeking Male to hook up with. (San Diego) %20800

Georgia

WHAT'S UP GBM, 23, 5'11", 155 lbs., light complexion, hazel eyes, low fade. Seeking Male for friendship. (Atlanta) %21398

FRIENDSHIP IN ATLANTA Marcus is a very attractive Male, 5'9", 160 lbs., clean-cut. Seeking masculine, top, muscular Male, for friendship in the Atlanta area %18374

NOT INTO GAMES Dre is a 34-year-old BM, 5'10", 134 lbs., HIV+, healthy, versatile, attractive, sincere, understanding. Seeking Male for true friendship, possible relationship. #21055

KEVIN IS A 27-year-old WM, 5'8", 130 lbs., dark/blue, smooth. Seeking Male for friendship or whatever. (Atlanta) #20971

ENJOYS BEING TOUCHED Tana is a beautiful, older TV, mature, intelligent. Seeking Male for possible long-term relationship. #14299

HIT ME BACK Dane is a 24-year-old BiWM, 6'3", 175-180 lbs., pierced, tattooed, shaved head, well-built, well-endowed, masculine. Seeking football player, military type, masculine Male. (Atlanta) #20663

KEEP IT ON THE DOWN LOW Lee is a straight-acting BM, 6'2". Seeking BM to hang with on the down low. (Atlanta) #20761

LET'S LIVE A LITTLE BTV, 28, looking for mature, understanding Guy who knows what he wants out of life. Let's build a meaningful relationship together. #20472

NEW TO ATLANTA GBM, 35, seeking BM, straight-acting, who is discreet. Interesting and fun times are ahead for the right person. Please leave a message. (Stone Mountain) #20438

ARE YOU READY? Young GBM, distinct bottom is seeking GM, definite top, any age or race, for a great time. (Atlanta) #19759

CAN YOU TOP THIS? R.K. is a 30-year-old BM, 5'11", 190 lbs., 36" waist, stocky build, brown complexion, low hair-cut, mustache, clean-shaven, bottom. Seeking top Male. #19092

WILL IT BE YOU? SBM, 6'4", 250 lbs, seeking nice Gentleman, race unimportant, for friendship and casual dating. Let's see if the magic is there for a new friendship. (Atlanta) #18290

FUN THAT'S IT African-American Male, enjoys sports, movies, hanging out. Seeking Male to have fun with. #14094

BIG GUY Kevin is a 33-year-old African-American Male, honest. Seeking cool, down-to-earth, honest, masculine Male, for friendship. (Atlanta) #15633

DAVID ON THE LINE GBM, 5'11", medium build, nice lips, attractive, bottom seeking H/BM, for casual dating and sharing good times. We can kick it if we are right for each other. (Atlanta) #14958

SERIOUS RELATIONSHIP POSSIBLE I am for real. GBM, 28, very attractive looking for a possible partner and long-term relationship. If you are serious and are commitment-minded let's see if we are right for each other. No fats or femmes. (Atlanta) #14265

MATURE WELL-TOOLED Mature very-pretty TV pre-op TS seeking loving, versatile oral top who can help me be a real Woman. You will be pleased. (Savannah) #14299

NO STRINGS ATTACHMENT GWM, 23, seeking GM, under 25, race is open, for sexual good times. Does this sound good to you? If so drop me a message. (Atlanta) #14757

LOW FADE GBM Rick is a GBM, 23, dark skin, 5'10", 155 lbs, very masculine, very professional seeking a buddy who deisres a new friend. Our relationship would be purely platonic. I am in a committed relationship and all that is wanted is a new friend to share some fun times together. #10053

BROTHER WANTS TO CHILL SBM, 5'9", 148 lbs, 24, discreet, bottom is seeking for a friend, Brother, top who wants more than a sexual relaltionship. We can have some great times together, let's try to connect. (College Park) #14401

Illinois

JEFF IS A 28-year-old Male, 6'1", blonde/green, very tan. Seeking BM only. (Bridgeport) #21239

REGGIE IS AN 18-year-old Male, 5'11", black/brown, glasses, enjoys music, having a good time, honest people, good conversation. Seeking an honest Male. (Chicago) #21238

CAN WE CLICK? GHM, very healthy, 44, HIV+, professional, 5'9", 150 lbs, clean shaven, top seeking GW, under 45, who can handle my status and be a close friend. Let's see where it will go. (Chicago) #20573

LET'S DO CHICAGO SWM, bi-curious, strawberry blonde, first time ad and experience seeking attractive TV who can appreciate love and affection. Age and race is open. (Chicago) #20518

SHORT ON WORDS Hey Guys whassup? GWM, 27, black/brown, 165 lbs, seeking new friend for casual dating and possibly more. Please give me a call. (Illinois) #20506

LET'S KICK IT Whassup? Adventurous GBM, sincere, honest, caring, outgoing seeking GM for possible relationship, I enjoy sports, rap, making love, being loved. Your age and race is unimportant. #10865

I AM FOR REAL If you are GWM, 55-75, very mature, educated, professional, retired then I could be the person for you. I am a GBM, employed, good-looking, 52, 185 lbs, clean-cut, high self-esteem. Let's see if we are compatible, give me a call. (Chicago) #20477

YOU BE ON TOP SBM, 20, bottom, enjoys movies, hangin out, having fun. Seeking inexperienced top, 18-23, for sharing some mutual experiences and new adventures. (Chicago) #20409

LIKES MOST EVERYTHING SBM, 5'9", 155 lbs, good shape, healthy, good-looking, enjoys wide variety of interests seeking GM, who has similar interests. Let's start off as friends first and see where it goes. (Chicago) #20415

LOTS OF SEX Hot, horny HM, downtown Chicago, enjoys dining in and out, walks in park, quiet times at home. seeking friend for possible relationship. Any age or race. (Chicago) #19849

35-YEAR-OLD BIWM seeking Male for sexual experiences only. #17579

WRITER 27-year-old BM, 5'8", 179 lbs., enjoys having fun, hanging out, dancing, writing, movies, music. Seeking Male with similar interests, for friendship, possible relationship. (Chicago) #17383

MICHAEL J. FOX TYPE WANTED Joe is a 46-year-old Male, brown/brown, goatee, moderately hairy, enjoys movies, music, dancing, dining out, quiet evenings. Seeking boyish Michael J. Fox type Male, 40-50, must be down-to-earth, stable, monogamous, n/s. (Chicago) #15939

NEW TO CHICAGO Carlos is a HM, 5'11", black/green. Seeking a new friend to show him around the city. (Chicago) #15664

GIMME A CALL James is a 25-year-old GBM, versatile, open, good-humored, enjoys bowling, cooking, dancing, good sex, parties. Seeking GBM for friendship, possible relationship. (Chicago) #15356

IS THIS YOU? 18-year-old Male, 5'11", 155 lbs., black/brown, enjoys music, intelligent conversation, having fun. Seeking Male with similar interests. (Chicago) #15217

SINCERE, DOWN-TO-EARTH, HONEST GBM, 38, enjoys bowling, walking, music, movies seeking similar Male who has similar likes. Let's try to connect and see where it goes. (Chicago) #14646

LIKES ORDER IN LIFE John is a GWM, casual, laidback, cool Guy, not into the bar scene. ISO counterpart who would like to find out more about me, please give me a call. (Chicago) #13286

Michigan

INTERESTED? 35-year-old BM, enjoys music, watching tv. Seeking Male 25 and under, with similar interests, to spend time with. (Detroit) #21888

BOYISHLY CUTE? Jimmy is a 27-year-old Male, 6'2", 190 lbs., 8" cut, dark/dark, very attractive. Seeking boyishly cute Male, 18-25, slim, bi-curious, for friendship, maybe more. #21310

GETAWAYS, VERY ROMANTIC GBM, 41, healthy, handsome, HIV+, very sincere, enjoys weekend getaways, quiet times at home, movies. Seeking very sincere, GBM 35-53, with similar interests and goals. (Detroit) #21328

NOT A SLACKER Chris is a 20-year-old Male, 5'9", 145-150 lbs., 32" waist, brown-skinned, tattooed, pierced, nice, easy-going, open-minded, versatile, bottom. Seeking an open-minded, nice, top Male. (Detroit) #20850

LIKE THE IDEA Donald is a 37-year-old GWM, tight, hungry butt. If interested, leave a message. (Detroit) #20985

LEAVE A MESSAGE 28-year-old BM, enjoys dining out, movies, quiet evenings. Seeking

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Male 28-40, down-to-earth, if interested, leave a message. (Detroit) #20644

LITTLE TEDDY BEAR WANTED If you are a little, chubby, hairy teddy bear let's play. I am out of my cave and we can have fun together. (Detroit) #20304

BE MY MAN Looking for a nice, well-mannered Gentleman that enjoys movies, dining out, and chilling out. If this is of interest to you, please give me a chance. Age and race is unimportant. (Detroit) #19970

LET'S DO IT SBM, 24, seeking friend and possible partner for fun times. Age and race is unimportant, give me a call. (Detroit) %19878 ROMANCE African-American Male, 6'3", healthy HIV+, employed, enjoys reading, music, people, movies. Seeking B/WM, light smoker, social drinker, to show him the romantic side of life. (Detroit) #17639

WESTERN SUBURBS CHICAGO Big bear Larry, 6'3", 260 lbs, very hairy, seeking other bears or cubs for cuddling. If you fit this bill give me a call and see where it goes. #10684

WHAT'S UP FELLAS Attractive GBM, 18, 6'1", 220 lbs, 44" chest, intelligent, mature, employed ISO GBM, 25-45, who enjoys the finer things in life. If this sounds like you give me a call, you will be pleased. (Detroit) #14498

New York

LET'S HANG OUT TOGETHER GWM, 42, very handsome, muscular ISO counterpart who is interested in a new friend. Many possibilities exist for a great friendship. (NYC) #14845

HOT TIME IN BIG APPLE GWM, 6'2", 185 lbs, black/brown, 8" enjoys all sports, seeking GM, age and race open, for threesome, foursome or whatsome. Give me a call. (New York City) _14810

Tennessee

QUALITY TIME 30-year-old BM, 155 lbs., 34" waist, enjoys working out, quality time. Seeking masculine Male with similar interests. (Memphis) #20687

NEW TO MEMPHIS 34-year-old GWM, 6'2", 195 lbs., enjoys movies, sports, quiet times. Seeking masculine, muscular, n/s, social drinker GBM. (Memphis) #20864

SEEKING COMPANIONSHIP J.R. is a 37-year-old BM, 5'9", 185 lbs., medium complexion, brown eyes. Seeking Male for companionship. #20776

LET'S BE FRIENDS GM, 5'9", 180 lbs, black/brown, seeking Male for fun times and new adventures. If this is of interest, please leave a message. Age and race is open. (Jackson) #20188

NEW TO MEMPHIS Chad is 6'1", 180 lbs., blonde/blue. Seeking Male for fun times. (Memphis) #17485

HOT BOY Ex-model GBM, 5'11", brown skin, seeking brother that good times can be shared with. I am nice to be around and you will have a good time. Give me a holler. (Memphis) #14729

MATURE, STOCKY, SOLID GBM, 5'9", 285 lbs, dark skin, open-minded, very loving seeking counterpart that is willing to try a new experience that could develop into a solid relationship. All serious inquiries will be answered. Willing to relocate. #15818

Texas

MASCULINE MALES ONLY Tony is a 21-year-old Male, 6'1", 155 lbs., light complexion, afro/brown, very attractive Male. Seeking a versatile, Male 18-29, 140 lbs. -179 lbs., no fats, no femmes, for possible relationship. (Dallas) #21676

IS THIS YOU? 24-year-old GBM, enjoys movies, hanging out. Seeking an out-going, sincere, trustworthy Male. (Houston) #21692

I NEED A THUG IN MY LIFE Houston is a 20-year-old BM, 5'6", 190 lbs., low hair-cut, bottom, enjoys movies, bowling, quiet times. Seeking BM 5'10"+, dark complexion, nice-looking, top, masculine, thuggish. #21180

ITALIAN/IRISH MALE Dustin is a 22-year-old, Italian/Irish Male, 5'11", blonde/blue, average-looking. Seeking GWM, for possible relationship. (Halcomb City) #20653

TWOSOME FOR THREESOME Two young Guys, mid-20s, well-endowed seeking GM, age and race is open, for fun times and possible threesome action. (Dallas) #20469

REALLY NICE GUY SBM, 6'2", 185 lbs, hairy, mustache, HIV-, work out 4 times a week, seeking tall, attractive, independent, Christian, employed Male. No scrubs. Be an all-around regular Guy. (Houston) #20512

KEEP IT ON THE DL Dallas is a 26-year-old BM, 6'0", 195 lbs., medium build, medium complexion, low hair-cut, mustache, very attractive, bottom, enjoys movies, bowling, quiet times. Seeking gentle, masculine, discreet, aggressive top Male, with similar interests. (Dallas) #15022

VERY ATTRACTIVE BOTTOM Are you a hot Boy? GBM, 21, intelligent, very attractive, 5'8", 140 lbs, seeking hot, horny BM, bottom. Let's do it. (Dallas) #14929

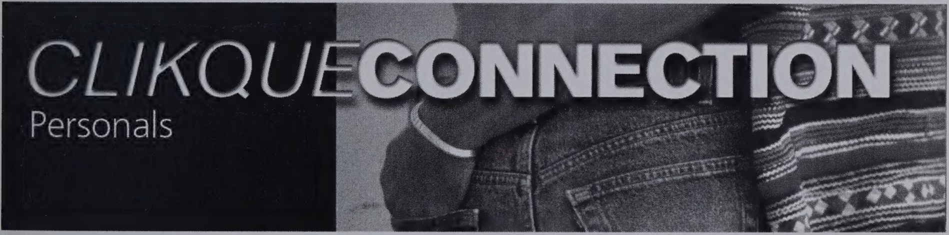
WILLIAM, 24, MEDIUM build, blonde is seeking a friend to have some new experiences with. If you are dependable, fun-loving, honest and enjoy good times then I am the Man for you. (Texas) #14787

STRICTLY A TOP John, 5'8", 170 lbs, light brown skin, 35, SBM, top, very outgoing, fun to be around enjoys going out, movies, clubs ISO counterpart who knows how to take care of his Man. If this sound good to you, give me a holler. (Dallas) #14417

Virginia

CONSIDERED ATTRACTIVE 28-yeaer-old GWM, 6'0", 170 lbs., black/hazel, 32" waist, very attractive. Seeking straight-acting/appearing Male. #17546

FIRST TIME Attractive WM, 6'0", 190 lbs, curious. Seeking an aggressive, good-looking, slim, uncut Male, for first time experience. (Chesterfield) #15741



CLIKQUE CONNECTION

Personals

WOMEN: CALL 1-800-546-MEET FOR YOUR FREE PERSONAL

California

CHILDREN WELCOME Gina is a 30-year-old Female, mother of one, enjoys talking, the beach, sports, reading, music. Seeking Female for an honest friendship, possible relationship. (Huntington Beach) #21839

INTERESTED? 25-year-old HF, enjoys singing, dancing, listening, talking. If interested, leave a message. #21677

DON'T WASTE MY TIME! 26-year-old, feminine BF, light complexion. Seeking an attractive, mature, feminine Female, 25+, 5'5"+, HWP, light to brown complexion, down-to-earth, spontaneous, for friendship, possible relationship. (Inglewood) #21821

ECCENTRIC-LOOKING BIBF SBiBF, 20, 5'6", 140 lbs., dreadlocks, pierced, fit, enjoys poetry, reading, sketching, painting. Seeking SA/BF, honest, intelligent, down-to-earth, for friendship, possible relationship. (Los Angeles) #21519

Florida

BI-CURIOUS, MARRIED FEMALE Bi-curious, Married Female seeking an intelligent, educated, open-minded, soft, pretty, discreet, sexy, disease/drug-free, bi-curious Female, for safe fun. (Miami) #16906

Georgia

LIKE WHAT I LIKE? 32-year-old WF, 5'7", 175 lbs., brown/hazel, enjoys classical movies, long walks on the beach, outdoors, sports, camping, fishing, swimming. If you like what I like, call me! #17537

GIVE ME A HOLLER Black Diamond, 21, 5'4", 125 lbs, medium complexion, no piercings, unattached seeking stud, 19-24, hit me up. Will return all calls. (Georgia) #18921

NIKA IS A BIBF, 5'11", 185 lbs. Seeking Female, for true friendship. (Atlanta) #18225

VERY, VERY ROMANTIC 32-year-old WF, 5'7", 140 lbs., brown/hazel, very romantic, enjoys the outdoors, long walks, movies, dancing, sports, music, cooking, candle light dinners, wine, fireplaces. Seeking Female with similar interests, for possible relationship. (Homerville) #17537

WHERE ARE YOU? 22-year-old Female, 5'2", 125 lbs. Seeking Female 25-32, medium to thick build, no children. #15416

Michigan

YOU SHOULD BE WITH ME 32-year-old GBPF, enjoys music, theater, poetry readings, karate tournaments, working out. Seeking PF 30-35, no children, n/s, drug-free, with similar interests. (Detroit) #20724

EXOTIC DANCER Attractive, BiF, 5'2", 150 lbs., blonde/hazel, very sexy. Seeking sexy, attractive BiF, for sexual encounters. (Detroit) #21667

PETITE BF Pamela is a petite, sexy BF. Seeking Female with a good sense of humor. (Detroit) #21202

TOMBOYISH FEMALE Very attractive, 29-year-old GBF, 5'7", 130 lbs., light complexion, n/s, n/drinker, enjoys bowling, playing pool, shopping, theater, dining out. Seeking feminine, SF 24-32, , no taller than 5'5", no heavier than 165 lbs., no more than one child, very independent, n/s, for friendship, possible relationship. (Detroit) #17609

VARIETY OF COLORS 32-year-old African-American PF. Seeking an erotic, n/s, n/drinker, passionate, passive, Female who is a good lover, with a variety of colors, for erotic fun and passion. #15349

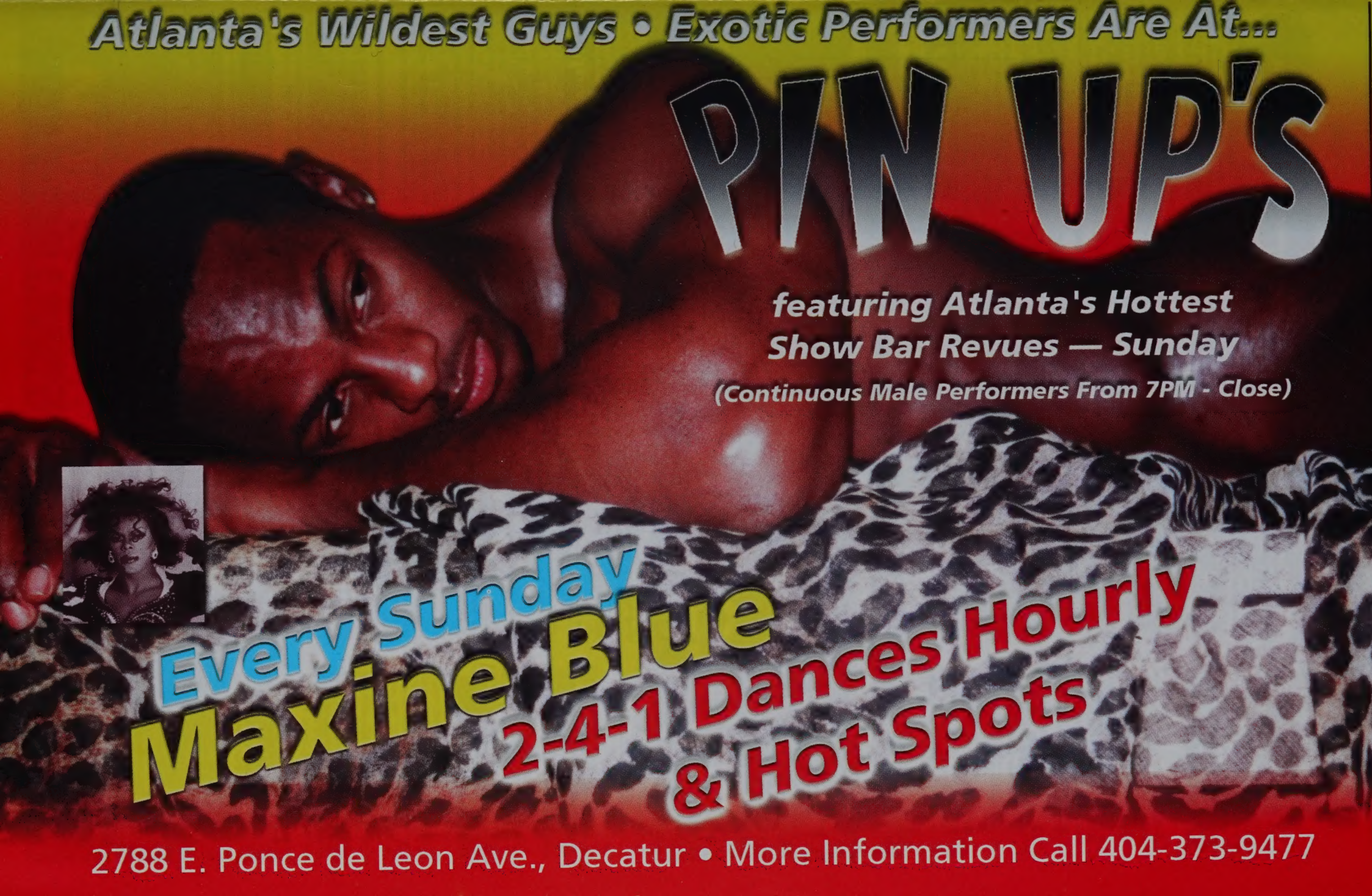
THICK AND WANTS FRIEND BF, 21, 5'2", 150 lbs, seeking friend who wants a new Gal pal in her life. Let's see if we can make it work. (Detroit) #17005

COULD IT BE YOU? GBF, 36-ish, seeking a Lesbian friend. If we are right for each other a promising future is ahead for us. No Bi's. Please give me a call. (Detroit) _17085

FUN-LOVING FEMALE, early-20s, sincere, honest. Seeking Female, for friendship. (Detroit) #16698

Tennessee

I'LL BE WAITING 29-year-old GBF, 5'4", 125 lbs., feminine, attractive, very sexy, down-to-earth, good-humored, enjoys the outdoors. Seeking PF 25+, medium build, down-to-earth, good-humored, for friendship, possible relationship. (Memphis) #21292



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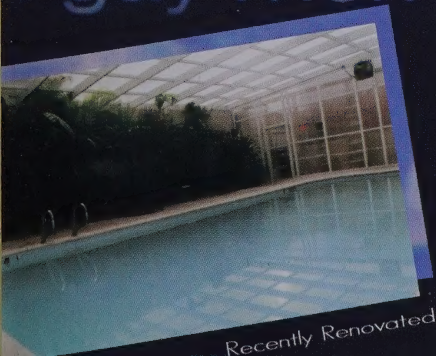

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Rascals The Nightclub Hosts

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Weekend Celebration

June 22-25
2000

Thursday, June 22nd

The Kickoff

Cookie LaCook Hosts
The Best of the Best
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Alfreda Payne
Miss Black Entertainer Universe 1999-00
Chanel Nicole
Mr. Black Entertainer Universe 1999-00-
Mario Hunter
Miss Black Houston Universe
Tiffany Brooks
Mr. Rascals- Onyx Onassis
Miss Rascals- Porscha Paris
Showtime 11:00PM

Friday, June 23rd
Flawless Oz Hosts

A Night with the Little Rascals

Showtime 11:00PM

Saturday, June 24th
The Only Gay Pride

Night Time Parade

in this side of the World
Come and Celebrate with Pride as the
Royal Family of Rascals take the Streets
Parade starts @ 8:00PM
The after party at Rascals

Sunday, June 25th
We will take over the World, That is

Astroworld of course.

Meet us at the gate @ 11AM and fill
yourself with food and fun.
And ride the rides
Pictures will be taken for Clikque
Magazine

Sunday Night

The Rascals Untouchables Farewell *to Black Gay Pride*

Hosted by The Godfather of Texas-
Grover Fortenberry

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For Him & For Her

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AUGUST 2000
VOL. 3 NO.16
PRINTED IN THE USA
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Atlanta Black Gay Pride
Labor Day Weekend
freedom 2000

Presented By: Reggie Thomas and Black Gay Men Together along w/ITLA, NAESM & Clikque Magazine
(Management Team: Kurt Robinson, Martin Little, Leondra Robinson)

FRIDAY NIGHT @ FUSION
OFFICIAL KICK-OFF PARTY - W/GO-GO DANCERS

Resident DJ Kurt Mainroom - House.
Resident DJ Smash Hip Hop, Reggae, R&B
Doors open @ 10:00 - until

SATURDAY AFTERNOON
@ (Pleasandale Lake), College Park, GA

NAESM, ITLA & Fusion's Annual Pool Party
with: DJ Mark Cato. Free Food • $2 Drinks 3-4. VIPs $10
Gate Opens @ 12:00 - 10:00. Show Performnce @ 6PM

SATURDAY NIGHT @ FUSION
ROOM 1- HIP HOP JAMBOREE 2000

DJ Unknown (Warehouse, NY)
DJ Steve Miggedy Maestro (Chicago)

ROOM 2-BATTLE OF THE DANCERS/PART (1)

Representing Chicago, Detroit, Texas & Florida

DJ Boom on the box / Emcee Maxine Blue
Doors open @ 10:30 - Battle starts @ 12:00

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SUNDAY NIGHT
(JOINT PARTY & MINI-CONCERT)
@ STUDIO CENTRAL

Located Downtown [Memorial Drive and Central Avenue]
404-688-3444 (Club Info Line) - Plenty of Parking

1/2 off entrance to Club Fusion's Sunday Night Party w/wrist bands

Special Guest Artists Nadirah Shakoor & Divinity performing live!
Featuring The Legendary House Mother - DJ Sedric
Hip Hop, Reggae and R&B with: DJ Smash [Atlanta]
DJ Unknown [New York] Doors open @ 9:00 - 4:00

FuSion ATLANTA

SUNDAY NIGHT @ (FUSION)
ROOM 1 - A Classics Reunion Celebration

Remembering the clubs of old: The Paradise Garage (NY), The Warehouse (Chicago), Clubhouse (DC), Heavens, Detroit) The Nile (Philly) with: DJ Kevin Ford & DJ Dean Burns

ROOM 2 - BATTLE OF THE DANCERS PART 2

Dancers from New York, New Jersey, Philly & DC
With DJ Boom - Doors open @ 10:30

Weekend VIP Passes On Sale Now! (Fridays @ Club Fusion)

Official Information:

Host Hotel: Renaissance (Midtown) (404-881-1600) ask for ITLA Black Pride Rate
Official Airline - American (1-800-331-1600) Code 9089UQ
Official Car Rental - Avis (1-800-331-1600) Code AWD D900708
Rail - Amtrak (800-872-7245) Code X-40K944

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Atlanta Black Gay Pride

Labor Day Weekend

freedom 2000

friday

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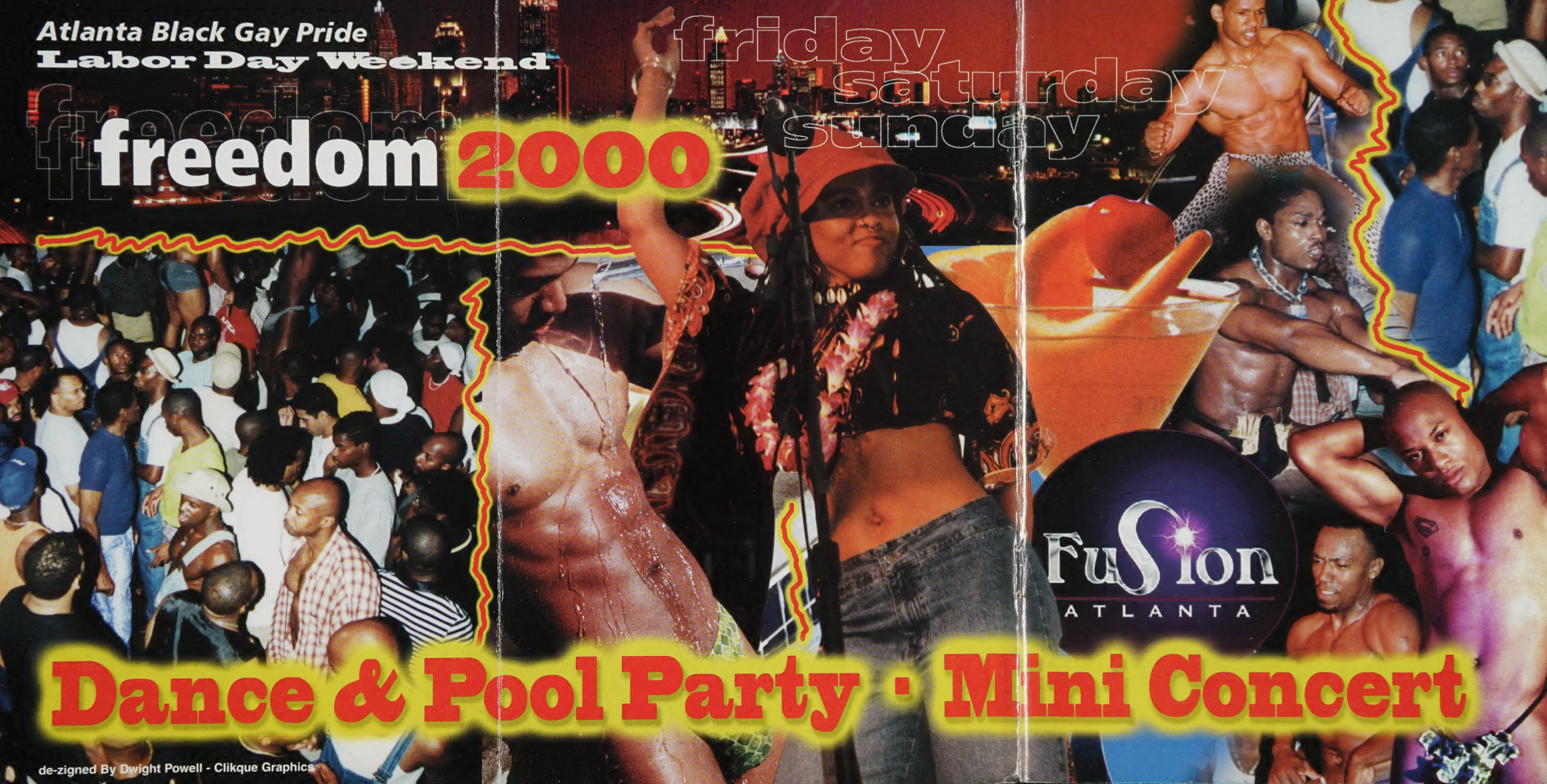
sunday



Dance & Pool Party · Mini Concert

de-zigned By Dwight Powell - Clikque Graphics

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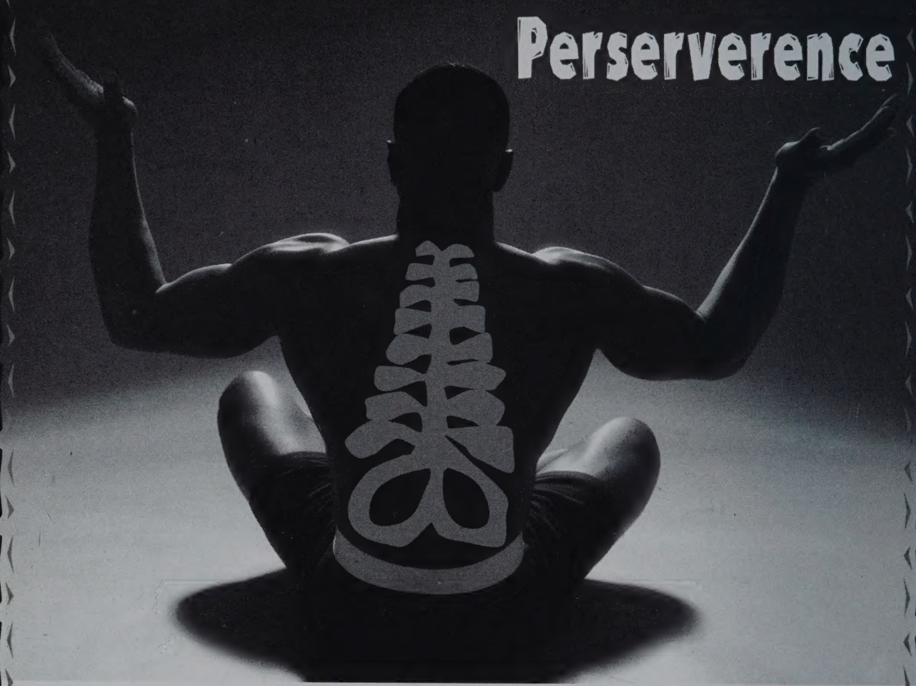
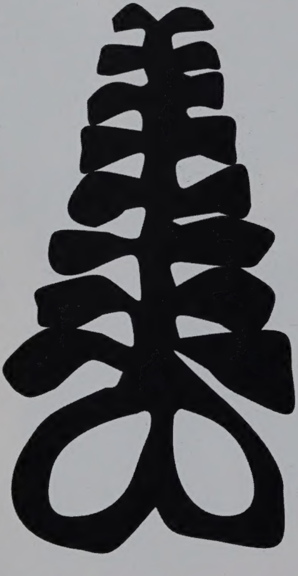
Perserverence





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For information and referrals, call the Midwest AIDS Prevention Project

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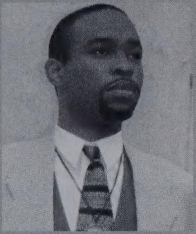
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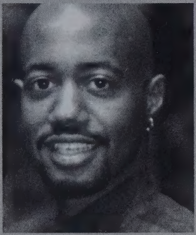
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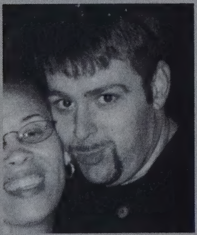
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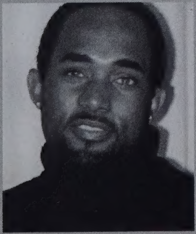
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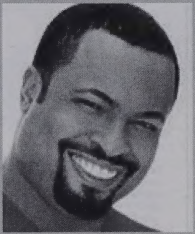
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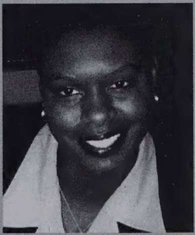
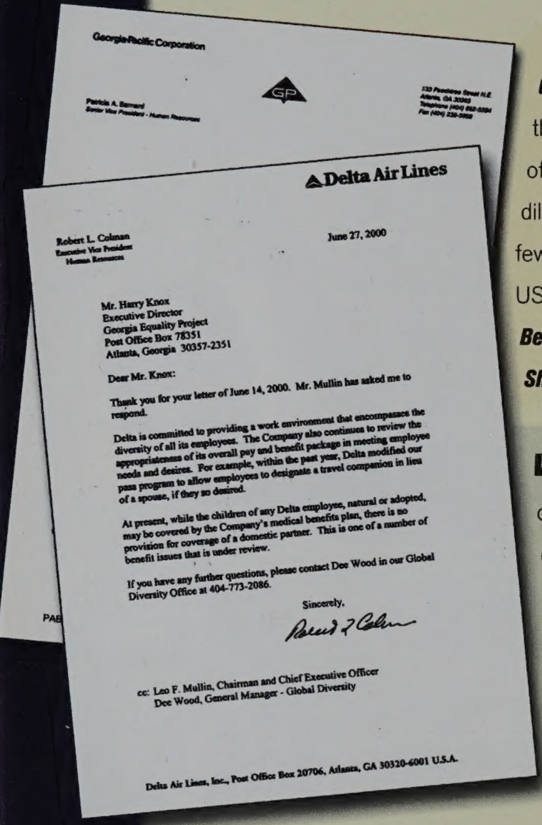

Dorinda Henry
Atlanta, Ga.

Alright Already!
The Naughty Nine



Georgia-Pacific Corporation

Patricia A. Barnard
Senior Vice President - Human Resources

133 Peachtree Street N.E.
Atlanta, GA 30303

PAB

Delta Air Lines

Robert L. Colman
Executive Vice President
Human Resources

June 27, 2000

Mr. Harry Knox
Executive Director
Georgia Equality Project
Post Office Box 78351
Atlanta, Georgia 30357-2351

Dear Mr. Knox:

Thank you for your letter of June 14, 2000. Mr. Mullin has asked me to respond.

Delta is committed to providing a work environment that encompasses the diversity of all its employees. The Company also continues to review the appropriateness of its overall pay and benefit package in meeting employee needs and desires. For example, within the past year, Delta modified our pass program to allow employees to designate a travel companion in lieu of a spouse, if they so desired.

At present, while the children of any Delta employee, natural or adopted, may be covered by the Company's medical benefits plan, there is no provision for coverage of a domestic partner. This is one of a number of benefit issues that is under review.

If you have any further questions, please contact Dee Wood in our Global Diversity Office at 404-773-2086.

Sincerely,

Robert L Colman

cc: Leo F. Mullin, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Dee Wood, General Manager - Global Diversity

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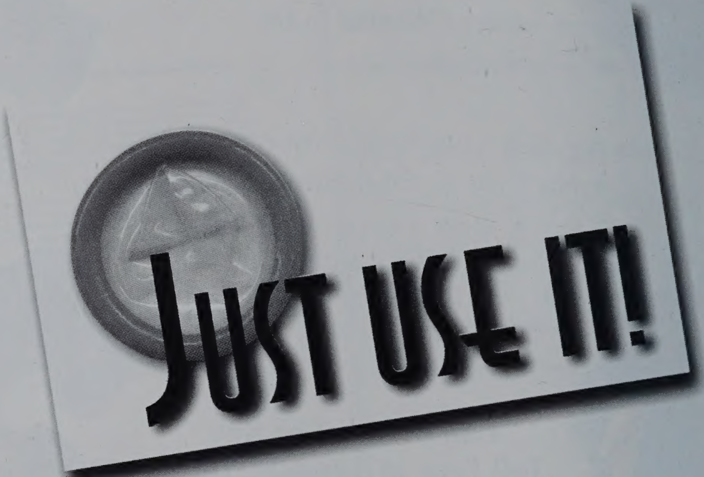

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Concept, Design, Illustration & Marketing By: Dwight Powell Clikque Graphic 404-817-3898

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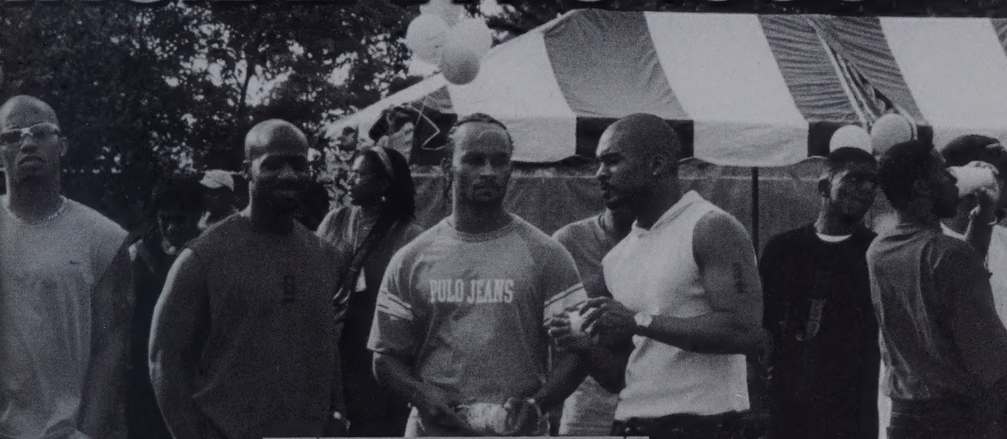

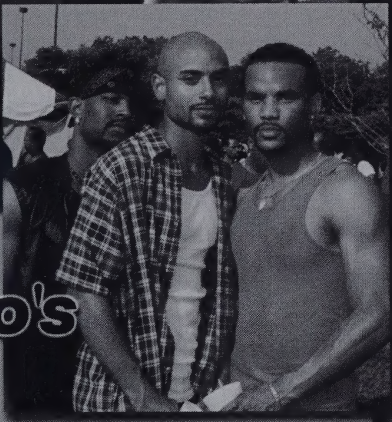

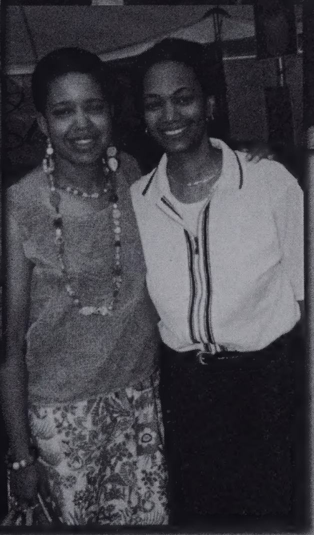

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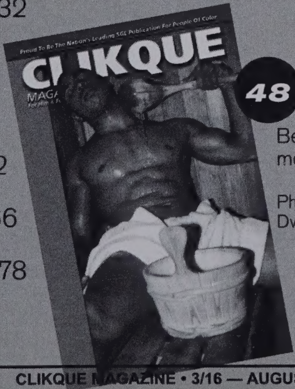
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48

Beauty of the month

Photo by: Dwight Powell

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Fit For A King

Sunday
September 10th, 2000

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Pageant

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Also starring
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Demetris Domino
Tiffany Brooks

Out of towners may pre-register by calling 713-942-CLUB

Registration: Day of pageant @ 1PM

ASK DR. SELMA

SO LONELY, I COULD DIE

Dear Dr. Selma:

I am so lonely. I am 49 years old. My lover died this past September after an awful bout with cancer. We were together for twenty-one years. We did everything together. Now, since he is gone, I am all by myself. My family rejected me when I first came out and moved in with Lawrence. During the entire twenty-one years, none of my family members have ever visited my home with Lawrence. Since our families hated the idea of us being together so much, Lawrence and I found creative ways to spend holidays together, without our families. The past holiday season was especially difficult, without Lawrence. I just couldn't start going around my family, like nothing had ever happened. Friends call, but they remind me of Lawrence and our beautiful life together. So, I stay home and away from everyone. Even if I did want to go out, where would I go. I could just die, but I promised Lawrence that I would live for both of us. Jerry

Dear Jerry,

My heart goes out to you. When I read your letter, tears came to my eyes for many reasons. Jerry, you can go on and you will once you complete your grieving. Though we never really recover, or complete our grieving after the loss of a beloved one, we must build our strength from the pleasant memories that we shared with that beloved one. Jerry, remember when you first met Lawrence. Do you remember the excitement that the two of you felt. Do you remember the first and second Christmas that you and Lawrence spent together. Remember shopping for his birthday presents. Jerry remember your promise to Lawrence and push on. Find others who have loss a lover after an illness. Contact Men of Color, MAPP, or Affirmations or see if you can join one of the group therapy sessions with others with similar grieving and loss feelings. Jerry, you might also find one of the churches in our community for spiritual support and fellowship. Jerry, in time you will began to reach out to your old friends and perhaps began to make amends with your family. And Jerry, though you feel desperately alone, there is an entire community of gays and lesbians who are your brothers and sisters with life stories we can share with you and make you laugh again. Also, Jerry contact the Ruth Ellis center and see if you can do some volunteer work with high risk gay and lesbian youths on the streets. These things will begin to take you mind off of your sad thoughts. I want you to know Jerry that God is omnipresent. He was with you and Lawrence as you loved one another. We know this because God is love. When you get a chance read Psalm 139. We are loved so much by God Jerry. Check Him out, and call me if you need me. Follow the peace. Selma

SCARED.... STRAIGHT

Dear Dr. Selma

I am 13 years old boy. My mom is a lesbian. Her friend is very nice to all of us and my mom is finally happy. I love my mom and I am glad that she is happy. I just wonder about me. Will I be gay? I like girls a lot. My mom taught me to love everyone and all kinds of people. I just don't want to be gay because of the way people make fun of my mom and other gay people. My father says stuff too about my mom when I go and visit him. Scared.

Dear Scared,

I don't usually get angry, but I am angry with your father for putting your mother down in your presence. Have you told your dad that his comments bother you. Tell him. Or, do you feel comfortable enough to tell your mom to speak with your dad about his comments about your mom. If you do not think that this is a good idea, perhaps you have a favorite adult relative that you can discuss your father's comments with. Maybe this person can help by telling your dad that these comments bother you. Now, my beloved you do not have to worry about turning gay because your mom is gay. We do not turn gay or lesbian. We simply are. Some people are born right handed. Others are born left handed. There are all kinds of wonderful people in the world. All of us are made in the image of God. And God don't make mistakes. You like girls and you probably always will. Most people who are lesbian or gay already know by the time they reach your age in life. Parents have little to do with the gay or straight parts of our lives. For example, my parents are straight, but I am a lesbian. Write me soon and tell me how things are going. And, don't worry, be happy. Selma

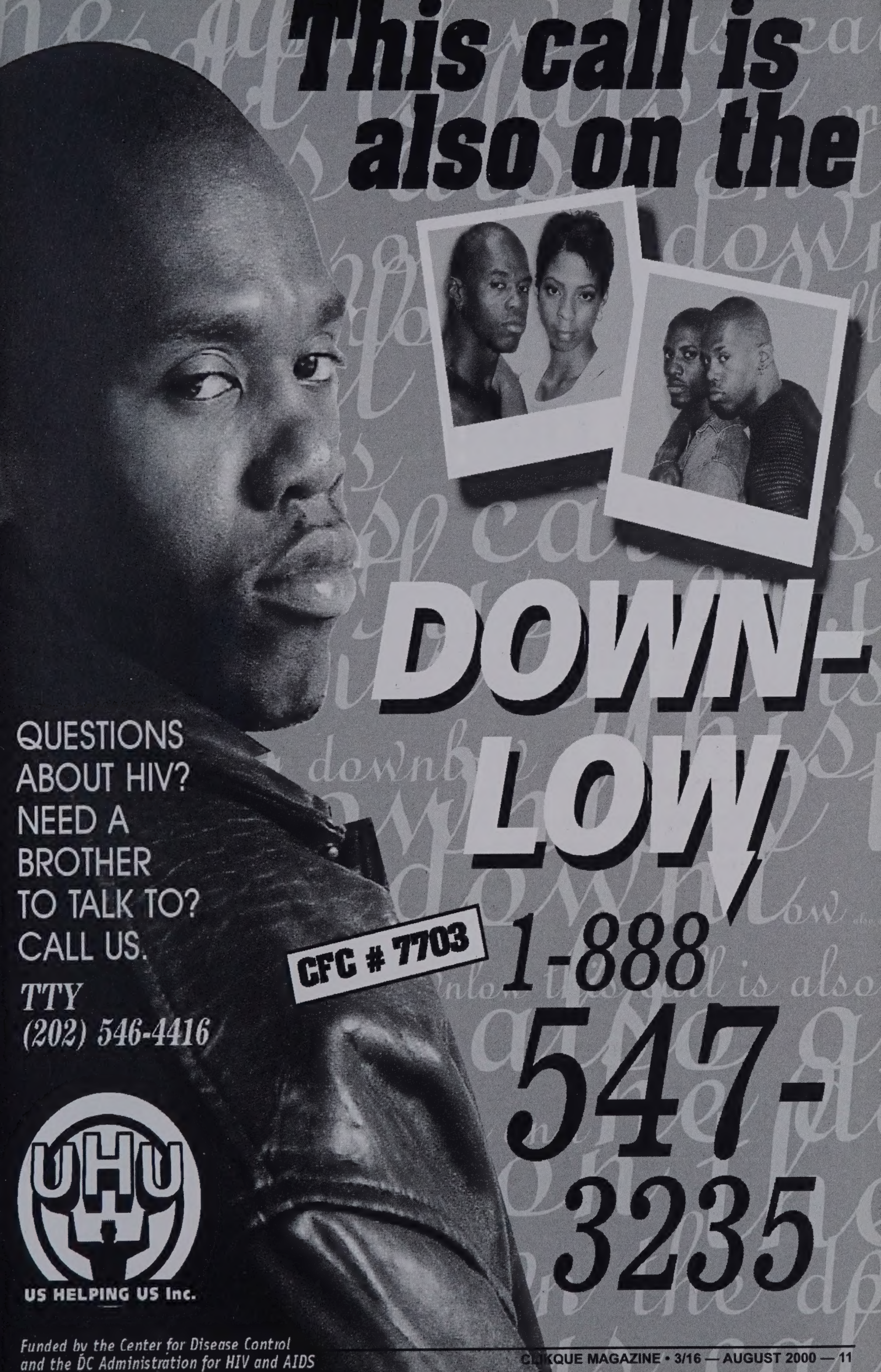
JEALOUS OF THE PILLOW

Dear Dr. Selma:

I love my lover. She is the stud of all studs! But when we sleep at night, she hugs and clings to her pillows and not to me at night. I'm jealous. Want it all, Jackie

Dear Jackie,

Get your own pillow girl. It's a stud thing.
Pleasant dreams. Selma



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TAKE IT JUST ONCE A DAY

SUSTIVA fits the way you live because you take it just once a day. It can be taken with or without meals, and there's no need to drink lots of liquid.

GENERALLY TOLERABLE SIDE EFFECTS

SUSTIVA is generally well tolerated, with fewer gastrointestinal (GI) side effects, such as nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea, than Viracept®*.[3] Diabetes, kidney stones, and life-threatening liver problems are rare.

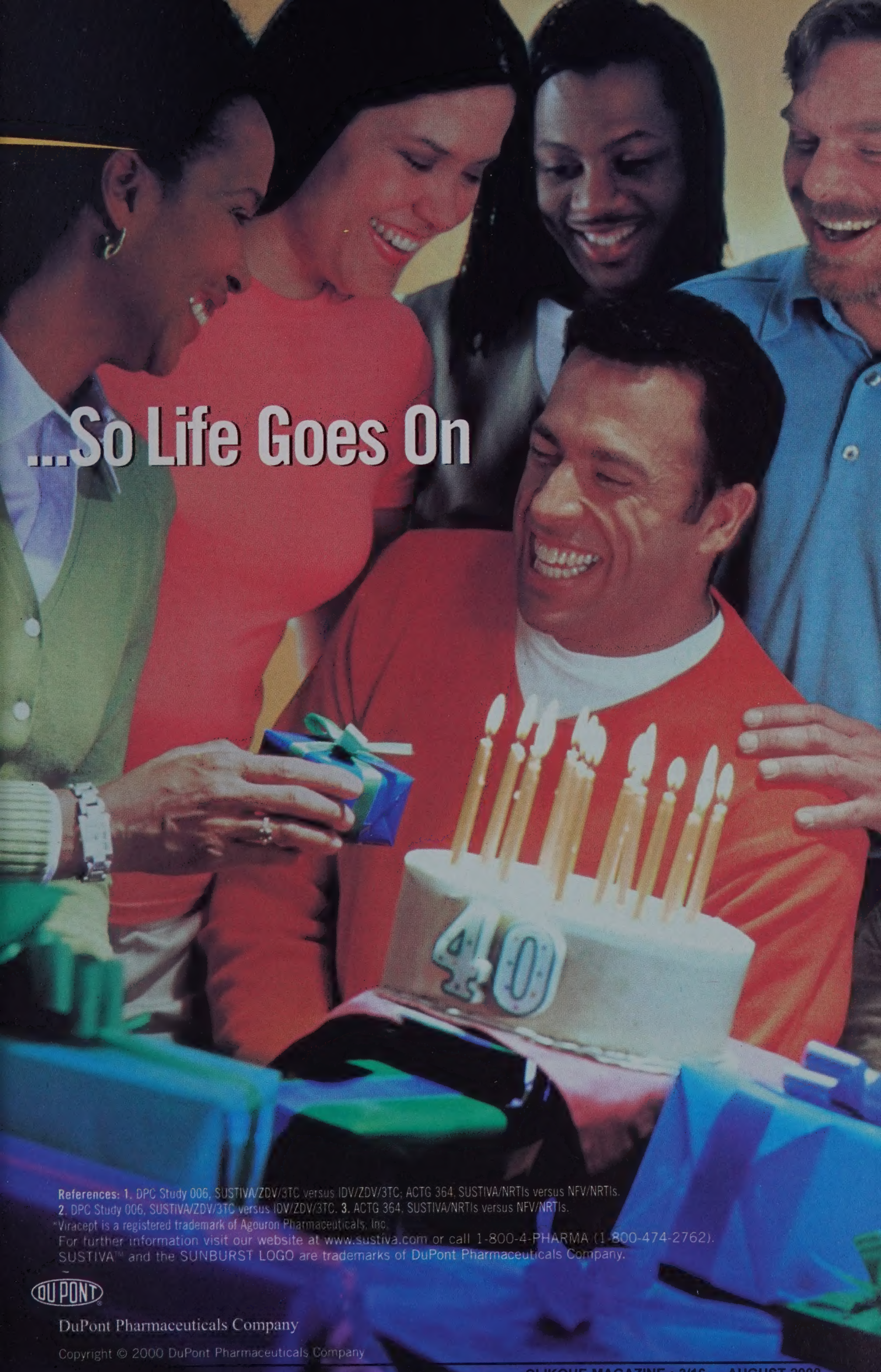
SAFETY INFORMATION

Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams a few hours after starting SUSTIVA. They tend to go away after you have taken the medicine for a few weeks. A small number of patients have had severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. If you have these symptoms, you should contact your doctor immediately to discuss your therapy. There have been a few reports of suicide, but SUSTIVA has not been established as the cause. Women should not become pregnant while taking SUSTIVA because birth defects have been seen in cynomolgus monkeys given SUSTIVA. See Patient Information about SUSTIVA on the following pages.

Once Daily

SUSTIVA™

efavirenz



References: 1. DPC Study 006, SUSTIVA/ZDV/3TC versus IDV/ZDV/3TC; ACTG 364, SUSTIVA/NRTIs versus NFV/NRTIs.
2. DPC Study 006, SUSTIVA/ZDV/3TC versus IDV/ZDV/3TC. **3.** ACTG 364, SUSTIVA/NRTIs versus NFV/NRTIs.
*Viracept is a registered trademark of Agouron Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
For further information visit our website at www.sustiva.com or call 1-800-4-PHARMA (1-800-474-2762).
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Once Daily **SUSTIVA** efavirenz

SUSTIVA™
(efavirenz)
capsules

Patient Information about SUSTIVA* (sus-TEE-vah)
for HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) Infection
Generic name: efavirenz (eh-FAH-vih-rehnz)

Please read this information before you start taking SUSTIVA. Read it again each time you refill your prescription, in case there is any new information. Don't treat this leaflet as your only source of information about SUSTIVA. Always discuss SUSTIVA with your doctor when you start taking your medicine and at every visit. You should remain under a doctor's care when using SUSTIVA. You should not change or stop treatment without first talking to your doctor.

What is SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is a medicine used to help treat HIV, the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). SUSTIVA is a type of HIV drug called a "non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor" (NNRTI).

How does SUSTIVA work?

SUSTIVA works by lowering the amount of HIV in the blood (called "viral load"). SUSTIVA must be taken with other anti-HIV medicines. When taken with other anti-HIV medicines, SUSTIVA has been shown to reduce viral load and increase the number of CD4 cells (a type of immune cell in blood). SUSTIVA may not have these effects in every patient.

Does SUSTIVA cure HIV or AIDS?

SUSTIVA is not a cure for HIV or AIDS. People taking SUSTIVA may still develop other infections associated with HIV. Because of this, it is very important that you remain under the care of your doctor.

Does SUSTIVA reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

SUSTIVA has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others. Continue to practice safe sex, and do not use or share dirty needles.

How should I take SUSTIVA?

- The dose of SUSTIVA for adults is 600 mg (three 200 mg capsules, taken together) once a day by mouth. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower (see **Can children take SUSTIVA?**).
- Take SUSTIVA at the same time each day. You should take SUSTIVA at bedtime during the first few weeks or if you have side effects, such as dizziness or trouble concentrating (see **What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?**).
- Swallow SUSTIVA with water, juice, milk or soda. You may take SUSTIVA with or without meals; however, SUSTIVA should not be taken with a high fat meal.
- Do not miss a dose of SUSTIVA. If you forget to take SUSTIVA, take the missed dose right away. If you do miss a dose, do not double the next dose. Carry on with your regular dosing schedule. If you need help in planning the best times to take your medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- Take the exact amount of SUSTIVA your doctor prescribes. Never change the dose on your own. Do not stop this medicine unless your doctor tells you to stop.
- When your SUSTIVA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to SUSTIVA and become harder to treat.

Can children take SUSTIVA?

Yes, children who are able to swallow capsules can take SUSTIVA. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower than the dose for adults. Capsules containing lower doses of SUSTIVA are available. Your child's doctor will determine the right dose based on your child's weight.

Who should not take SUSTIVA?

Do not take SUSTIVA if you are allergic to SUSTIVA or any of its ingredients.

What other medical problems or conditions should I discuss with my doctor?

Talk to your doctor right away if you:

- Are pregnant or want to become pregnant
- Are breast-feeding
- Have problems with your liver, or have had hepatitis
- Start or change any medicine
- Have side effects while taking SUSTIVA
- Have a history of mental illness, substance or alcohol abuse

What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?

A small number of patients have had severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. Some patients have had thoughts of suicide and a few patients have actually committed suicide. These problems tend to occur more often in patients with a history of mental illness. You should contact your doctor immediately if you think you are having these symptoms, so your doctor can decide whether you should continue to take SUSTIVA.

Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams a few hours after starting treatment with SUSTIVA. These feelings may be less noticeable if you take SUSTIVA at bedtime. They also tend to go away after you've taken the medicine for a few weeks. If you have these side effects, such as dizziness, it does not mean that you will also have severe depression, strange thoughts or angry behavior. Tell your doctor promptly if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. There is the possibility that these symptoms may be more severe if SUSTIVA is used with alcohol or mood altering (street) drugs. You should avoid driving or operating machinery if you are having these side effects.

One of the most common side effects is rash. These rashes usually go away without any change in treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. If you develop a rash, call your doctor promptly.

Other common side effects include tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, and diarrhea. However, this is not a complete list of side effects reported with SUSTIVA when taken with other anti-HIV drugs. Do not rely on this leaflet alone for information about side effects. Your doctor can discuss a more complete list of side effects with you.

Please contact your doctor immediately before stopping SUSTIVA because of side effects. Tell your doctor or other healthcare provider if you notice any side effects while taking SUSTIVA.

What about birth control, pregnancy, or breast-feeding?

Women should not become pregnant while taking SUSTIVA. Birth defects have been seen in animals treated with SUSTIVA. It is not known whether this could happen in humans. You should use a condom or diaphragm in addition to other methods of birth control while taking SUSTIVA. Inform your doctor immediately if you are pregnant. If you want to become pregnant, talk to your doctor. Do not take SUSTIVA if you are breast-feeding. Talk to your doctor if you are breast-feeding your baby.

Can I take other medicines with SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines (including ones for HIV). Your doctor may change your medicines or change their doses. For this reason, it is very important to:

- Let all your doctors and pharmacists know that you take SUSTIVA.
- Tell your doctors and pharmacists about all medicines you take. This includes those you buy over-the-counter and herbal or natural remedies.

Bring all your medicines when you see a doctor, or make a list of their names, how much you take, and how often you take them. This will give your doctor a complete picture of the medicines you use. Then he or she can decide the best approach for your situation.

The following medicines may cause serious and life-threatening side effects when taken with SUSTIVA. You should not take any of these medicines while taking SUSTIVA**:

- Hismanal® (astemizole)
- Propulsid® (cisapride)
- Versed® (midazolam)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Ergot medications (for example, Wigraine® and Cafergot®)

The following medicines may need to be changed or have their dose changed when taken with SUSTIVA**:

- Crixivan® (indinavir)
- Fortovase® (saquinavir)
- Biaxin® (clarithromycin)

How should I keep SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is available as 50 mg, 100 mg, and 200 mg capsules.

Keep SUSTIVA at room temperature (77°F) in the bottle given to you by your pharmacist. The temperature can range from 59°-86°F.

Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children.

How can I learn more about SUSTIVA?

Talk to your doctor or other healthcare provider if you have questions about either SUSTIVA or HIV. For additional information you can visit the SUSTIVA website at http://www.sustiva.com.

This medicine was prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use it for any other condition or give it to anybody else. Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children. If you suspect that more than the prescribed dose of this medicine has been taken, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

* SUSTIVA™ is a trademark of DuPont Pharmaceuticals Company.

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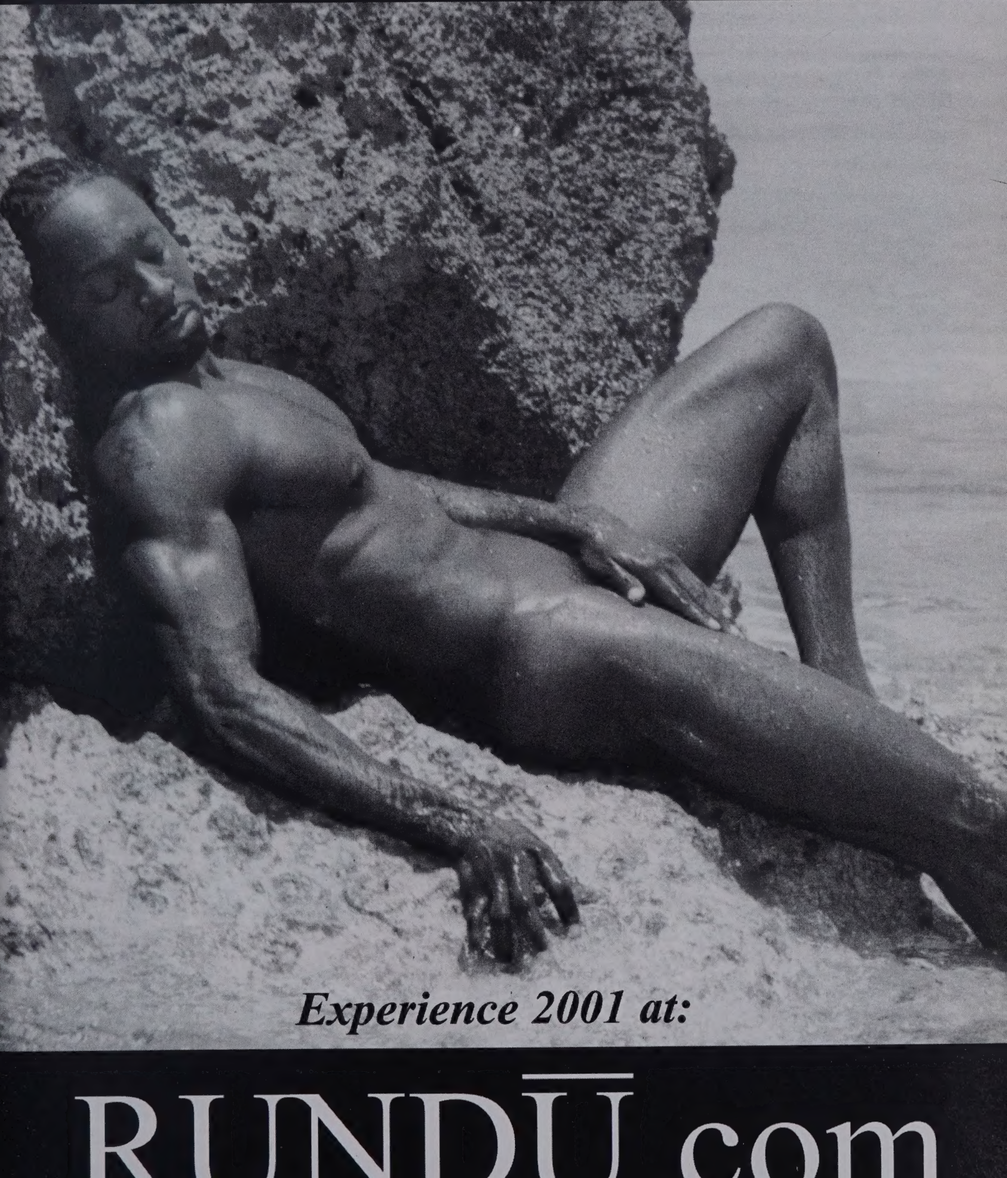

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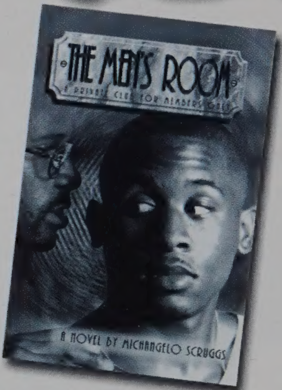
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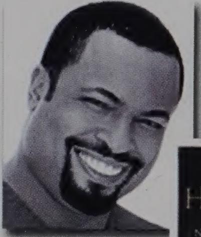
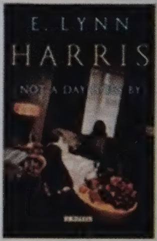


New From
E. Lynn Harris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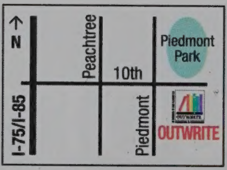
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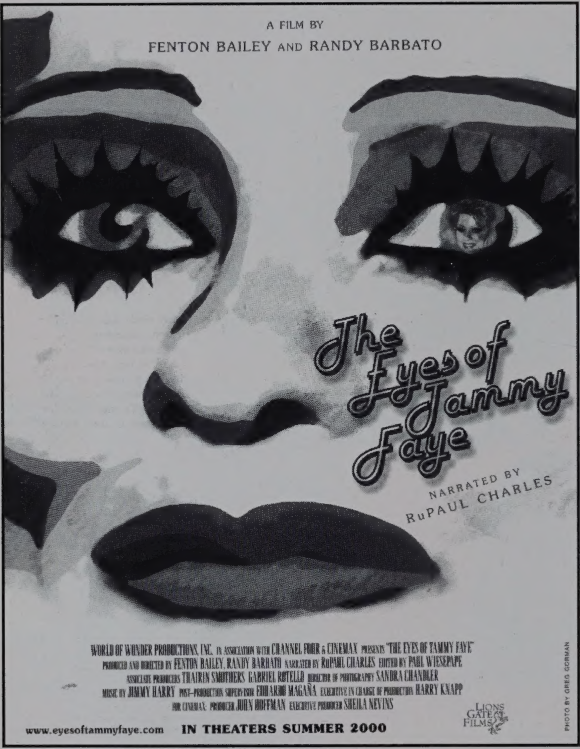
By Entertainment Editor: Jason Michael

Ru Paul

tells the story of Tammy Faye in new documentary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www.eyesoftammyfaye.com
IN THEATERS SUMMER 2000
LIONS GATE FILMS

PHOTO BY GREG GORMAN

She has faced more ridicule and public humiliation that perhaps any other woman in the 20th century. Tammy Faye Bakker-Messner took more than her fair share of abuse in the name of comedy during her fall from grace. And let's face it, she wasn't always easy to take seriously with those ferocious false eyelashes and equally fake coifs. Still, behind the mascara and madness, there's more to Tammy Faye than meets a lasciviously lined eye.

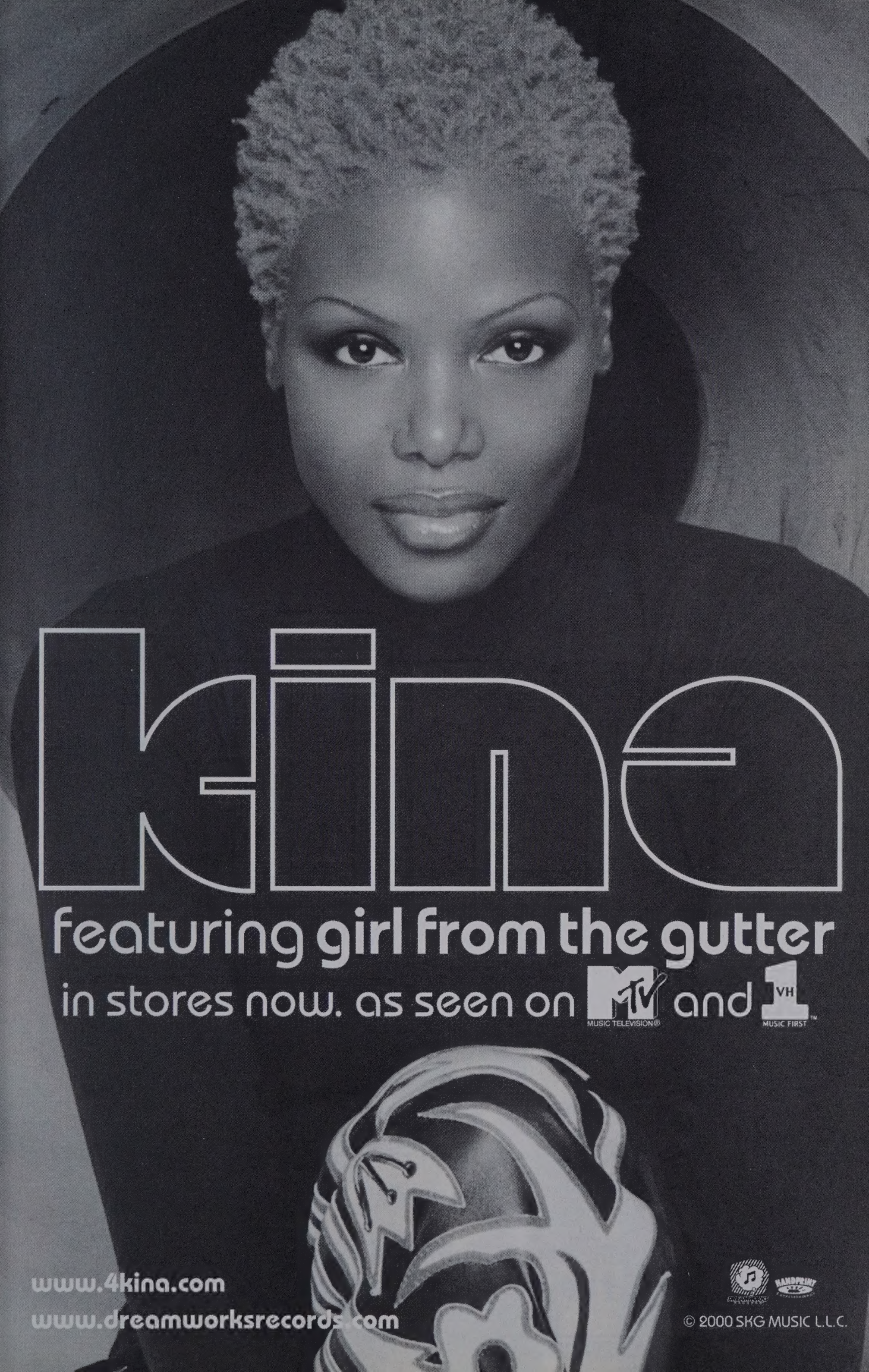
For instance, way back in the early 80s, Tammy Faye was the first televangelist to interview an individual living with AIDS. And not only did she present him to the public, but she publicly reprimanded the church world for turning a blind eye to the disease.

"Do you know how early that was for anyone in the Christian world to be reaching out and embracing a gay person? Let alone a person with AIDS?" asks former aid to Jerry Falwell and founder of the pro-gay Soulforce ministry Mel White in the film. "Tammy Bakker did it when no one else would do it."

And AIDS wasn't the only demon she tackled. She often took on racism, too. The PTL network was one of the first such television ministries to employ and regularly feature black ministers, vocalists and musicians. And Tammy Faye, the Hillary to Jim Bakker's Bill Clinton, found a loyal following of all colors as she reached out to unwed mothers, the disabled and those dealing with drug addiction.

So perhaps these were a few of the reasons that the rambunctious RuPaul signed on to narrate the documentary of this gospel diva's life. "The Eyes of Tammy Faye," out this month from Lion's Gate Films, focuses on Tammy Faye's rise, fall and reinvention. Produced and directed by the openly gay duo of Fenton Bailey and Randy Barbato ("Juror #5: 59 Days of Duty on the O.J. Simpson Civil Trial" and "101 Rent Boys"), the film makes you guilty for telling those Tammy Faye jokes, while at the same time giving you material for some more.

But the bottom line is that Tammy Faye, whom RuPaul calls the "Judy Garland of the Southern Baptists," is a survivor. And more than any other lesson, that's the moral of this moving story. ***–CM–***



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I TOO SING SONGS OF FREEDOM

by **Dorinda G. Henry**
Contributing Writer

"Star light, star bright, first star I see tonight, I wish I could, I wish I might, have this wish, I wish tonight." At some point in our lives, every one of us has recited this nursery rhyme in one form or fashion. Blessed with preadolescent naivete, we searched the heavens for a falling star or the first star in the sky to wish for that shiny red bicycle, a pellet gun, a new pair of shoes, a new dress, a doll, or simply to be in another place. Whatever the wish was for, we believed in our heart, our minds and with all of our soul, that that star had the power to grant us our wish. So we closed our eyes as tightly as we could and reached down into the depths of our being to wish that wish into reality.

In the spirit of this preadolescent naivete, I come to give voice to my hopes for the Black Church and its lesbian and gay members. It is a hope for healing, reconnecting as a community of faith and reconciliation. As same-gender-loving persons of African descent and those who are members of the traditional Black Churches, we must put on the whole armor of God. We must denounce the lie and the social constructs that would keep us from communion with our God, our community and our Church. We have to stop subscribing to the cliche, "love the sinner, but hate the sin." When we subscribe to this seemingly "gentler" approach and utter the phrase ourselves, we participate in our own oppression by offering some manner of justification that our sexuality is not any more sinful than any other sin. We have to expose this paradigm as one based on a selective preoccupation with homosexuality, as opposed to other so-called "inappropriate" behaviors.

When we continue to participate in the congregational experience, through worship, song and tithing, even when the worship experience entails a sermon that damns us to hell, it is not enough that, "everybody knows." Sunday after Sunday, we sat quietly, fearful that the sermon was directed towards us and that everyone in the church knew that it was directed towards us. We listened as friends and loved ones sounded their approvals through, "uh huhs," and "Amens." I myself even engaged in nervous laughter at times - laughing to keep from crying I suppose. Rather than die a complete spiritual death, we left. I for one blamed God. I, like many others was unable to separate the Church from my experience of God. I, along with a host of others, have returned. As we return to the pews of the Black Church however, we must do so without "fear and trembling," representing that being a same-gender-loving individual does not erase the experiences of being born black in America. Suffering in silence is not our redemption, nor is it the redemption of the Black Church. Our silence implies consent; it implies shame. We have to make it clear that we too are not ashamed of the Gospel and that we too, sing songs of freedom.

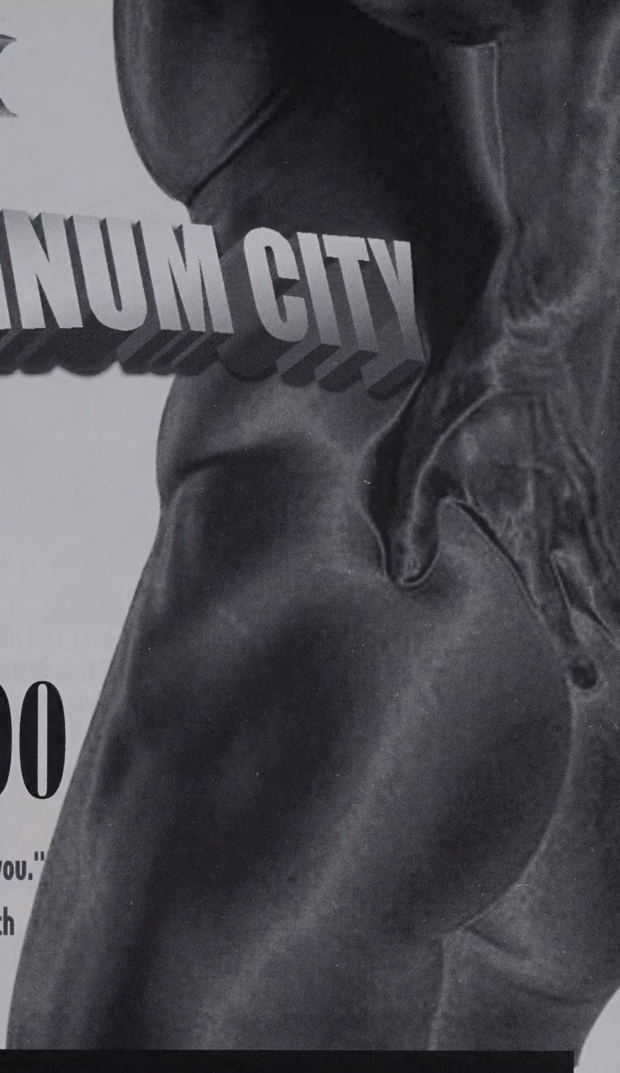
Our relationship to the Black Church resembles that of the Parable of the Prodigal Son. Like the Prodigal Son, we left the Black Church and many of us left our community altogether. We wondered aimlessly about, until like that still small voice found its way through our anger, resentment and frustration and reminded us of who we are and whose we are. Once we, like the Prodigal Son, came to our self, we remembered our Father/Mother/God and we found our feet, straightened out our backs and rose to return to that place which we call home - the Black Church.

"Star light, star bright, first star I see tonight, I wish I could, I wish I might, have this wish, I wish tonight." I wish that upon our return to the Black Church that it responds like the father of the Prodigal Son and fall on our neck, and kiss us and rejoice in our return. I wish for a grand celebration, full of laughter, tearful conversation and play. I wish that we embrace and bathe in the warmth of togetherness and joy. I wish that we, same-gender-loving people and the Black Church both say together, that we were both dead in our isolation from one another and that now, in our togetherness, we are both alive again. I wish that the Black Church would reach for its ordination guidelines so that it may "bring forth the best robe," to drape around those of us seeking it. "Star light, star bright, first star I see tonight, I wish I could, I wish I might, have this wish, I wish tonight." **—CM—**

TRAXX

PRESENTS

PLATINUM CITY



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Rough & Rugged Hip Hop and Reggae Music All Night Long On The Infamous Third Floor

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Sunday
September 3rd

Traxx

Join TRAXX & N.A.E.S.M.* as they present

Surrender

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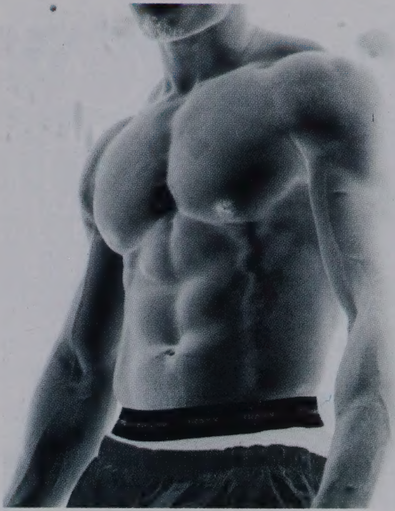

DIRECTIONS TO POOL PARTY PLEASANT HILL LAKE

From downtown - Take 85 South Then Make Left At Old National Hwy. ■ Go To 2nd Traffic Light - Turn Left at Godby ■ Go to First Traffic Light - turn Right at Schofield ■ Make First Left At Rochelle Way ■ Make First Right At Louix 13 ■ Make Right On Denny Drive ■ Follow Street Until It Dead-ends Into The Park

Open Bar 3 PM - 4 PM ■ Free Buffet/Bar-B-Que ■ Doors open @ 12 Noon

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Everyone's got their eyes on them and you will to...
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Monday
September 4th

Traxx

Doors Open @ 10 PM

UNITY IN OUR COMMUNITY IT'S TIME!

GREETINGS:

In The Life Atlanta, Inc. (ITLA) welcomes you to Atlanta's Black Gay Pride 2000. ITLA is honored to mark our 5th year of serving as the official organizer for this annual celebration. This year's theme: Unity in Our Community. It's Time!! represents our call to all members of the African-American community to embrace and support its Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered Brothers and Sisters.

Join us as we celebrate Atlanta's first pride celebration of the new century. For your enjoyment we have planned a weekend of festivities encompassing workshops, shopping, musical and spoken word performances, art gallery viewing and of course …
PARTIES! Get your Pride Pass ($60.00) in order to access the many discounts we have arranged for you to some of the premiere weekend venues for men and women in Atlanta. Pride Passes can be reserved online at www.inthelifeatl.com or by calling the Pride hotline (404 872 6410).

The Atlanta Renaissance Hotel Downtown serves once again as our host hotel and base of operations for our weekend celebration. Contact the hotel directly at (800 468 3571) to make your room reservations. Contact our official Travel agent DTA Travel (insert number from site) for assistance in fulfilling your air and auto transportation needs.

ITLA relies on, and is honored by, the support we receive from the community in order to host this annual celebration. This year ITLA is proud to list Agouron Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and Clikque Magazine as Bronze Level sponsors. ITLA is also proud to work with the Atlanta Freedom Marching Band; our club sponsors (Bulldogs, Fusion, The Otherside, Tower II); Ms. Kecia A. Cunningham – Commissioner, City of Decatur; the Karsten Durand Collective; Ms. Debra Mlambo – Director AIDS Education, Grady Health System; Mr. Ronald Moore – President, Atlanta Executive Network; ZAMI: Atlanta's Premiere Collective for Lesbian's of African Descent and our numerous contributors, friends and volunteers who all help make this weekend happen. If you would like to play a personal part in making the weekend a success feel free to visit our website and register to volunteer your time, talent and energy for the celebration.

In The Life Atlanta, Inc. looks forward to welcoming all friends and supporters to Black Gay Pride 2000. Join us as we affirm Unity in Our Community. It's Time!!

Sincerely,
In The Life Atlanta, Inc.
Official Organizer of Atlanta's Black Gay Pride 2000
Unity in Our Community. It's Time!!

---

visit: http://www.inthelifeatl.com • email: inthelife@mindspring.com

UNiTY iN OUR COMMUNiTY.
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Official Black Gay Pride Celebration

2000

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- Club Fusion
- Tower II
- Bulldogs
- The Otherside Lounge
- Zami

ATLANTA

UNiTY iN OUR

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Wednesday
8/30
Pride Kickoff Celebration

The Otherside Lounge
1924 Piedmont Rd
404 875 5238
50% Discounted Admission with
Pride Pass plus VIP entrance

Thursday
8/31
Candlelight Vigil & Gospelfest
MLK Center

Friday
9/1
Welcome Reception
Vibes & Sounds Show
Atlanta Renaissance Hotel

Bulldogs
Happy Hour
Free Admission with Pride Pass plus
VIP entrance

Fusion Friday
550-C Amsterdam Ave
50% Discounted Admission with
Pride Pass plus VIP entrance

Tower II
735 Ralph Mcgill
Hottest Female Bar in Atlanta
Dance Performers from across the
country
$3 discount with Pride Pass plus VIP
entrance

IN THE LI
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THE BLACK
BISEXUAL
COMM

Official Black G

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Saturday
9/2
Health & Wellness Fair
Workshops
Lunch
Speakfire
Atlanta Renaissance Hotel
Free Admission with Pride Pass

Bulldogs
The White Party
Free Admission with Pride Pass plus
VIP entrance

COMMUNiTY

iME!!

ATLANTA
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ESBIAN·GAY
ANSGENDER
UNITY

Pride Celebration
0 0

Tower II
735 Ralph McGill
Hottest Female Bar in Atlanta
"Switch" Drag Finals
$3 discount with Pride Pass plus VIP entrance

Sunday
9/3
Interfaith Service
10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Atlanta Renaissance Hotel

ZAMI
Atlanta's Premiere Collective for Lesbians of African Descent
Scholarship Benefit Performance
Discounted Admission with Pride Pass plus VIP entrance

Bulldogs
The Meeting Place Cookout
Free Admission with Pride Pass plus VIP entrance

Tower II
735 Ralph McGill
Hottest Female Bar in Atlanta
"Wet Body Contest"
$3 discount with Pride Pass plus VIP entrance

Monday
9/4
Happy Labor Day.
Rest and enjoy a day in Atlanta

schedule of events are subject to change

ATLANTA

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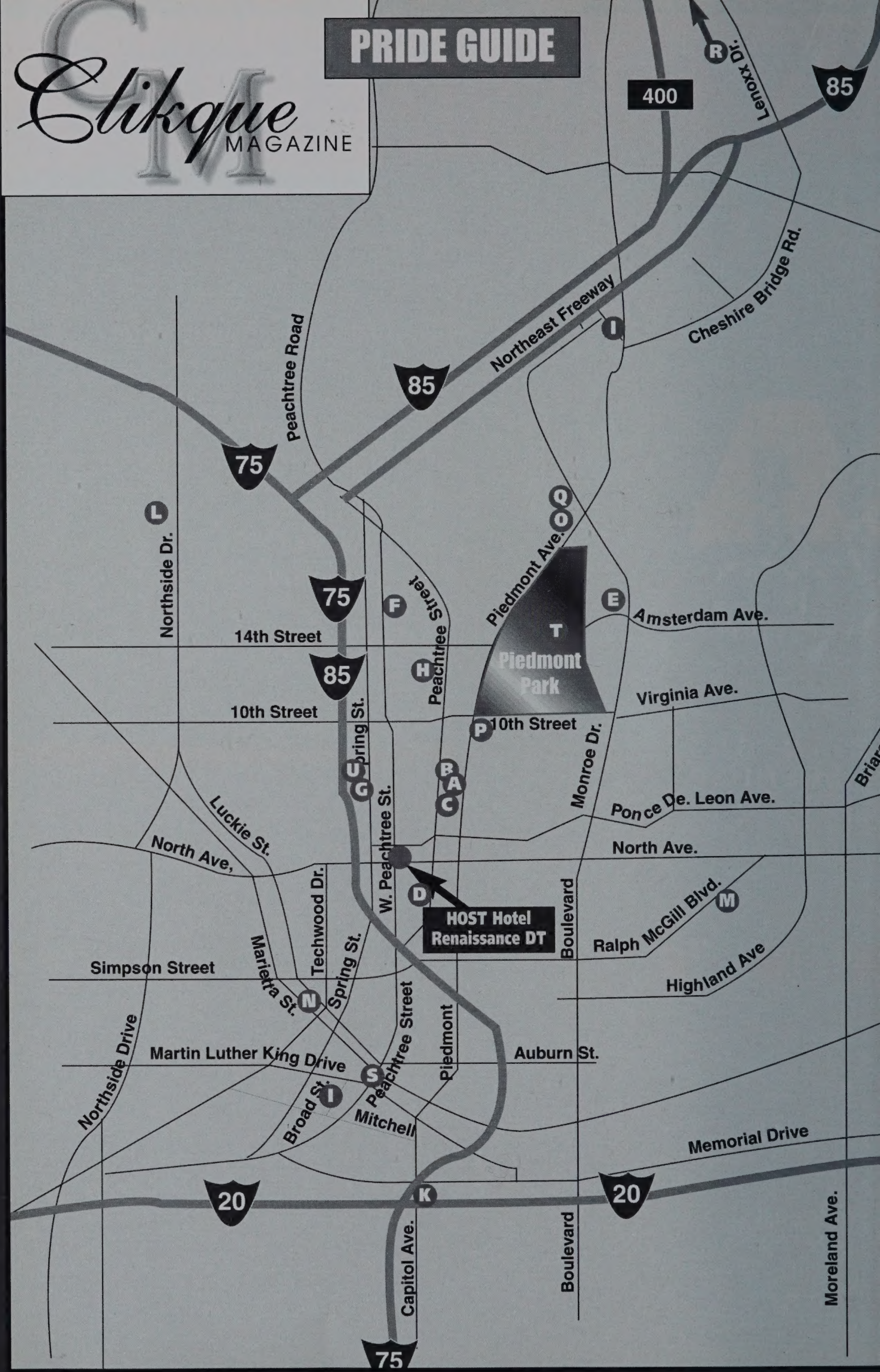
Clikque MAGAZINE

PRIDE GUIDE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Techwood Dr.
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Ralph McGill Blvd.
M
Simpson Street
Marietta St.
Spring St.
N
Highland Ave
Northside Drive
Peachtree Street
Piedmont
Martin Luther King Drive
Auburn St.
S
Broad St.
I
Mitchell
Memorial Drive
20
K
20
Capitol Ave.
Boulevard
Moreland Ave.
75

NIGHTLIFE

A – ARMORY/THELMA'S PUMP ROOM — *Drag* (Mostly Black on Fridays) 836 Juniper St. NE — 404-881-9280
B – BACKSTREET — *Dance / Drag* (Mixed, Mostly White)
845 Peachtree St. NE — 404-873-1986
C – BULLDOGS — *Cruise Bar / Great Drinks* (Nice Mixed Crowd)
893 Peachtree St. NE — 404-872-3025
D – CLUB TASTE — *Nice Mixed Crowd. (Male & Female)*
495 Peachtree St. — 404-758-3633
E – FUSION — *Dance / Drag / Food* Hyped Fri., Dance Sunday)
550-C Amsterdam — 404-872-6411
F – JAGUARS — *Dance* (Mostly Black Females on Friday)
1231 West Peachtree St. & 15th St. — 888-683-9117
G – SEQUEL — *Dance / Drag* (The Institution - Black Sun-Fri)
708 Spring Street — 404-874-8125
H – METRO — *Cruise Bar / Dance* (Mostly Hispanic)
1080 Peachtree Street — 404-874-3869
I – OTHERSIDE — *Dance / Drag* (Mostly Black On Wednesdays)
1924 Piedmont Road — 404-875-5238
J – PALACE, THE — *Dance* (Black 7 Days A Week)
91 Broad Street, DT Atl. — 404-522-3000
K – STUDIO CENTRAL — *Nice Mixed Crowd. (Male & Female)*
300 Central Ave — 404-688-3444
L – SWING RICHARDS — *Male Strippers* (Mixed)
1400 Northside Drive (off I-75) — 404-352-0532
M – TOWER 11 — *Female Spot. Really Nice - Check it out.*
735 Ralph McGill Blvd — 404-523-1535
N – TRAXX — *Dance / Drag / Food* (Fierce Saturdays & Monday Night With The Stars Of The Century - Mostly Black)
306 Luckie Street — 404-681-4422

BOOKSTORE/GIFTS

O – BRUSHSTROKES — *Books*
1510 Piedmont Ave. NE — 404-876-6567
CHARIS BOOKS & MORE — *Female/ Feminist Bookstore*
1189 Euclid Ave. NE — 404-524-0304
P – OUTWRITE BOOKSTORE — *Books / Coffee / Food / Lounge*
991 Piedmont Road — 404-607-0082
SHRINE OF THE BLACK MADONNA CULTURE CENTER
946 Ralph D. Abernathy Blvd. SW
— 404-7526125

SHOPPING

Q – ANSLEY MALL — *Shopping / Eating*
1544 Piedmont Ave. NE — 404-875-5238
R – LENOX SQUARE MALL — *Shopping / Eating / Cruising*
3393 Peachtree Rd. NE — 404-233-6767
PHIPPS PLAZA — *Elegant Shopping/ Eating*
3500 Peachtree Rd. NE — 404-262-0992
S – UNDERGROUND ATLANTA— *Shopping / Eating / Hanging-out* (Historic)
50 Upper Alabama St. DT ATL — 404-523-2311

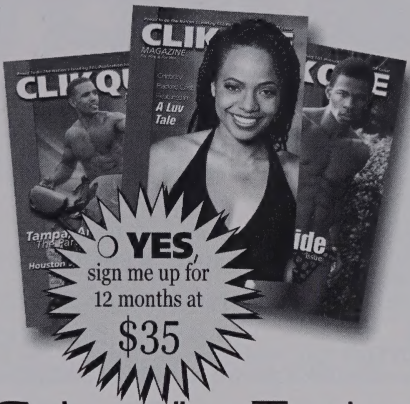
CRUISING

T – PIEDMONT PARK— *city park*
(Great place to hang-out)
Piedmont Road, Atlanta

SPA/WORKOUT

U – FLEX BATHHOUSE
76 4th Street — 404-815-0456

When You Miss Clikque You Miss You!



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Do You Know When & Where To Go?

Clikque Magazine Exclusive List Of When & When To Party Labor Day Weekend In Atlanta

WEDNSDAY

THE OTHERSIDE-1924 Piedmont Rd. 404-875-5238: Featuring the best in Hip-Hop, Rap, R&B and House. 50c Draft.

THURSDAY

VOYEUR- XXX Rated Event For Those That Like To Watch- For ladies that love ladies. Call 1-888-374-5504

THE OTHERSIDE-1924 Piedmont Rd. 404-875-5238: Featuring the best in R&B, Rap, w/ Bump & Grind feel .

FRIDAY

ATLANTA RENAISSANCE HOTEL - Welcome Reception - Hosted by In The Life Atlanat

CLUB FUSION- 550 Amsterdam. Midtown. Atlanta Black Pride Kickoff Party. doors Open @ 10pm

CLUB JAGUAR- 1231 W.Peachtree St. NW. Midtown. Atl., GA. 404-874-5673: *All Female Party*. doors open @ 10pm.

BULLDOGS — Cruise Bar / Great Drinks (Nice Mixed Crowd) 893 Peachtree St. NE — 404-872-3025

STUDIO CENTRAL- 300 Central Ave.(Corner of Central Ave & Memoria Dr.).Downtown.Atl.,GA 404-688-3444 (club info line) *All Female Party*

SATURDAY

FUSION ANNUAL POOL PARTY — Pleasant Hill Lake, College Park, GA. Gates open 12pm-10pm. Free food. Show starts @ 6pm.

GIRLS IN THE DAY: Splish- Splash- A Pool Party. - 2pm- 8pm. For more info. call 1-888-374-5504.

TRAXX — 306 Luckie St.NW. Downtown. Atl., GA. 404-681-4422-Chance Live in Concert performing hit singles: "Rescue Me" and "Rise Up!" Also featuring the Ritz Boyz.

CLUB FUSION — 550 Amsterdam. Midtown.Atl., Rm 1-Hip-Hop Jamboree/ Rm 2-Battle of the Dancers/ Pt.1. Doors open @ 10:30pm- Battle starts @ Midnight.

TOWER II- 735 Ralph McGill Blvd. Downtown.Atl., GA. 404-523-1535. *All Female Party*

THE GIRL BALL — Party w/ Female Celebrities From all over the Nation. Plus live in Concert 1.2.3.4. national female recording artist!- 11pm-4am. For more info. call 1-888-374-5504.

SUNDAY

TRAXX ANNUAL POOL PARTY- Pleasant Hill Lake, College Park, GA. Gates open @ 12 Noon. Free Buffet/ Bar-B-Que. Open Bar 3pm-4pm.

BLACK PRIDE OUTDOOR FESTIVAL — Club Kaya & The Metro-1068 Peachtree St. Midtown. Atl.,GA.- . 12pm- 7pm @ Club Kaya.

CLUB TASTE — 495 Peachtree St. Enter in Rear On Courtland St. Directions Call: 404-758-3633.Tropical "T" Sundays. Doors Open @ 4pm- 12am. *Male/Female Party.*

THE PALACE — 91 Broad St., Downtown. Atl.,GA., 404-522-3000. Doors open @ 5pm.

TOWER II — 735- Ralph McGill. Downtown. Atl.,GA. 404-523-1535. Skin Party (Bare as you Dare), Wet Body Contest, Iyannah St. Claire presents, Iyannah's Stars. Doors open @ 7pm. Free Admission before 8pm. *All female Party.*

STUDIO CENTRAL — 300 Central Ave. (Corner of Central Ave & Memorial Dr.)Downtown. Atl.,GA.-Joint Party & Mini Concert.404-688-3444. 1/2 Off entrance to Club fusion's Sunday night Party w/ wrist bands. Doors open 9pm-4am.

CLUB FUSION — 550 Amsterdam Ave.Midtown. Atl., GA. 404-872-6411(Info line). RM 1- A Classics Reunion Celebration. Remembering the clubs of old. RM 2-Battle of the Dancers Part 2. Doors open @10:30.

SHE TEA! 2K- A Multi Media Event- LIve bands, Live Web-Cast all over the world and the Infamous Wet-T-Shirt Competition. For more info call: 1-888-374-5504.

MONDAY

TRAXX — 306 Luckie St.NW. Downtown. Atl., GA. 404-681-4422 -Doors open @ 10pm Feature presentation: The Stars of The Century.

Clikque MAGAZINE

Visit Us @
www.clikque.com
for the latest info

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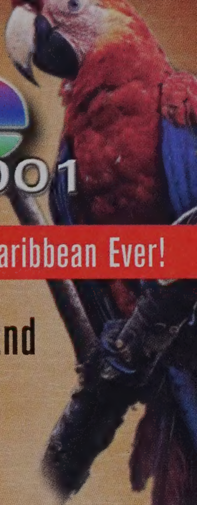
Imagine 2001



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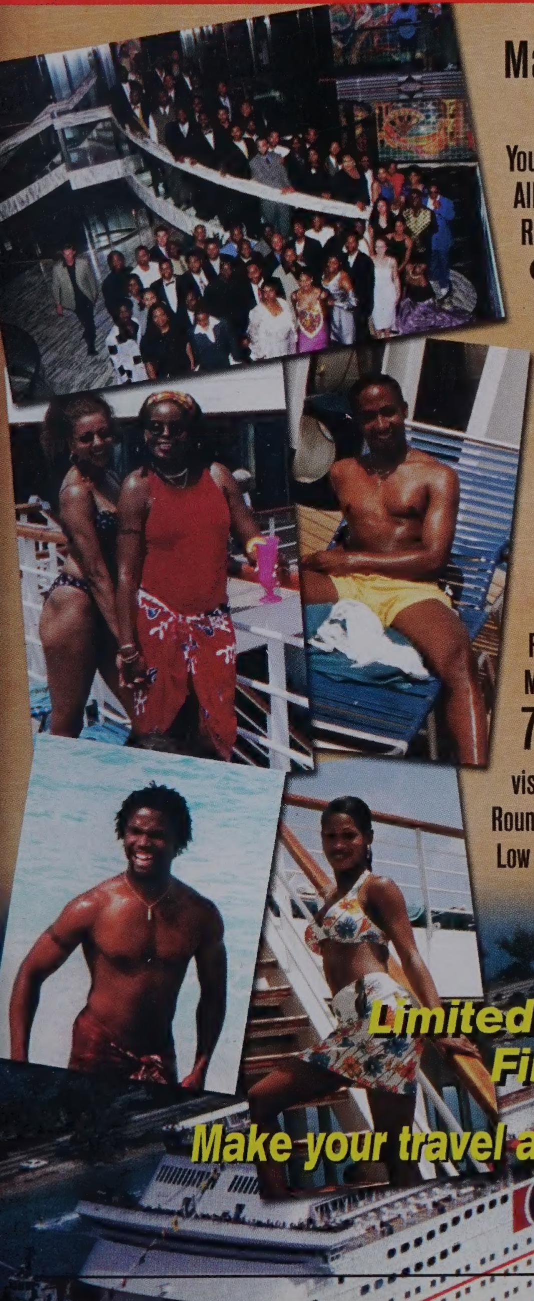

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Sept. 3rd, 2000

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Free Tropical Buffet 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
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Where Did The Love Go?

By Entertainment Editor: Jason Michael

Mary Wilson talks to Clikque about Diana Ross, the failed reunion and her gay fans

Once upon a time, three girls from Detroit's Brewster Projects took the nation by storm. The ambassadors of the Motown Sound, the Supremes broke sales records and race barriers alike, making history on their incredible rise to the top. But fame is never without its consequences, and soon the group was falling apart.

In 1967, Florence Ballard would be the first leave. Banned from ever billing herself as a Supreme again, she would go on to die destitute less than a decade later. Meanwhile, Diana Ross was next out of the ring, going on to super stardom and a string of solo hits. And last but not least, there was Mary Wilson, the one who stayed behind and remained faithful to the dream.

"I feel that the only person who has been the keeper of the flame has been me," said Wilson, speaking to Clikque just days after concert promoters SFX announced they were pulling the plug on the Wilson-less Supremes tour, "Return to Love." Starring Ross and two latter days group members hired and trained by Wilson, the tour, initially, was billed as a reunion. Those plans fell apart amid a very public war of words, with Ross calling Wilson bitter and Wilson calling Ross cheap.

It all got very ugly and the "Return to Love" tour, featuring the first ever Supremes lineup without Wilson, was a fabulous failure. With good seats going for in excess of $250, a show in Columbus sold only 3,000 tickets, while another in Tampa was only one-quarter full. Then, less than half way through its scheduled 31-city run, the effort was stopped in the name of slow ticket sales. And while many saw the move as a winning turn for Wilson, the singer, herself, doesn't see it that way.

"There is no victory," Wilson said. "The sad part is that there is no victory. The sad part is that we had to come out and say things that really had no meaning."

So why did the effort fail? Wilson has a theory.

"The only way I can explain it is that this thing, the Supremes, was so magical. What we achieved, what people perceived us to be, was such a magical thing. It had to have been, like, made in Heaven," she said. "So, in order for it to come back and really be a reunion, it would have to come back in that same pure form. And so, I don't think Diane and myself, or Diane, could actually do it until it was pure. So, maybe the timing wasn't right."

But the show, for Wilson at least, goes on. In the midst of her own summer tour, Wilson stays busy between dates attending New York University and giving book signings for her recently released "Dreamgirl/Supreme Faith" collection of memoirs. And she also has new music out, having released "I Am Changing," a collection of her recordings from the past decade, via her own website, marywilson.com. Still, despite all the changes her career and the recent tour fiasco have caused her to undergo, Wilson has always had one constant to rely on: the love of her gay fans. There's just something about the Supremes that has been attracting queer kids for more than 40 years.

"Probably, it could be the glamour," said Wilson. "You know, the fantasy sort of glamour. And, also that, as I said before, there was something magical about the Supremes. Even I don't know what it is. And, certainly, Diane doesn't. But it was something magical and I think, perhaps, the gay community probably zeroed in on that magic, because it's something that they know."

Yes, we know about magic. Now if only we had the power to get Wilson and Ross to 'stop fighting in the name of love' and get it together. *—CM—*

Stop in the Name of Slow Ticket Sales? Ross' "Return to Love" tour, featuring two latter day Supremes hired by Wilson, was canceled less than half way through it's 3 schedule dates (Photo by Jason Michael)

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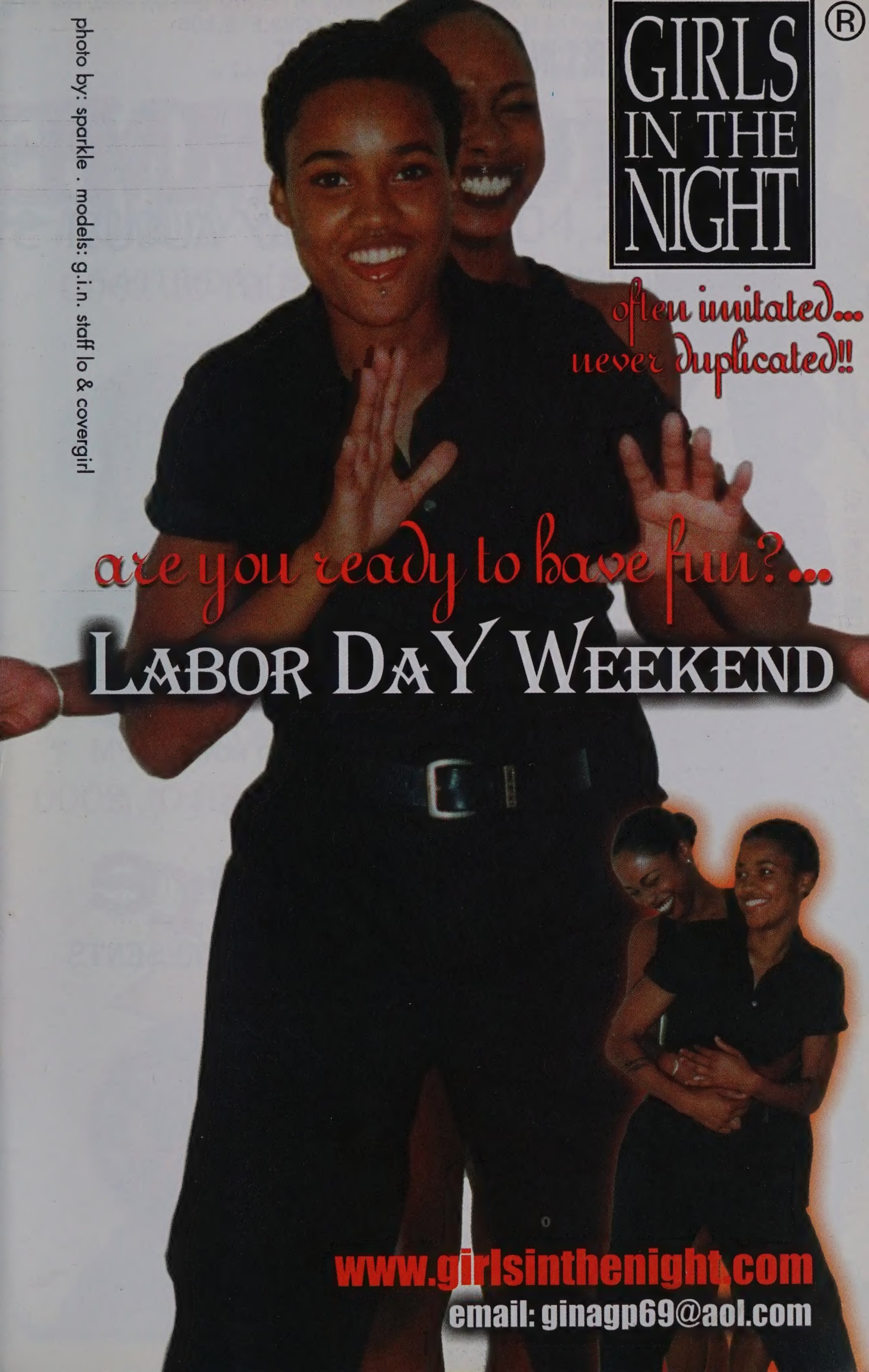

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GIRLS IN THE NIGHT PRESENTS

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THURSDAY AUGUST 3

THURSDAY AUGUST 31, 2000

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YOU MUST HAVE
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TO FIND OUT THE
SECRET LOCATION FOR
the unveiling of the all new
GIRLS IN THE NIGHT DANCERS !

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SIGN UP FOR OUR MAILING LIST NOW!! 10PM -?

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 01, 2000

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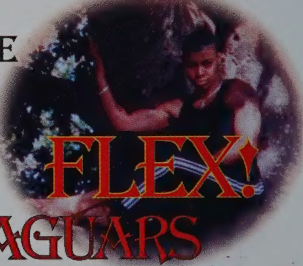

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-NOMENON

-MONDAY SEPTEMBER 04,2K

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 02, 2000
girls in the day

SPLISH-SPLASH!

A POOL PARTY
2PM - 8PM

SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 02, 2000
girls in the night

THE GIRL BALL

PARTY WITH FEMALE CELEBRITIES
FROM ALL OVER THE NATION!
PLUS LIVE IN CONCERT...
1. 2. 3. 4. national female recording artist!
11PM - 5AM

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 03, 2000
THE NOTORIOUS ONE...

SHE TEA! 2K!!

9PM - 4AM
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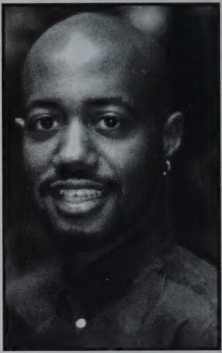
LIVE BANDS . LIVE WEB-CAST ALL OVER THE WORLD!
AND THE INFAMOUS
$500 CASH
WET-T-SHIRT COMPETITION

PICNIC!

passes at this event

DOUBLETALK

written by senior staff writer
CRAIG WASHINGTON
atlanta, ga.

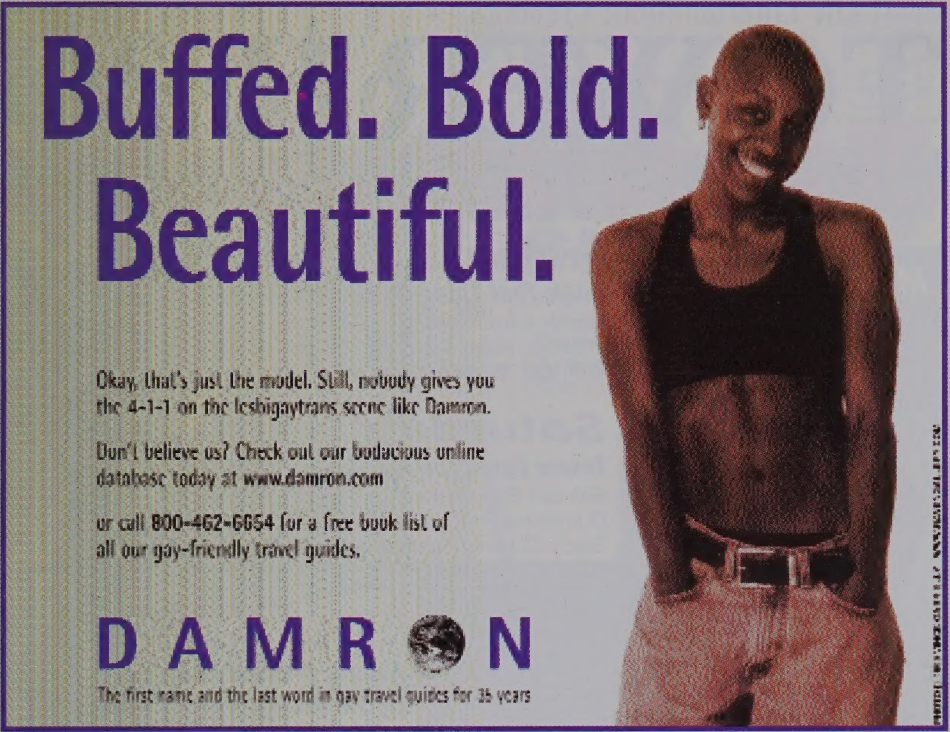


"Oh, I wonder, should we hate those who present us disillusion, then talk about love, love, love" - from "What Can I Do For You" sung by Labelle

Doubletalk. Old folks call it talkin' outta both sides of your face. The duplicitous speech of the "two-facedid", this language is contrived to convey a message and conceal the unarticulated issues that plague the speaker. It is usually deployed in the midst of attacking, judging, or dismissing others to puff ourselves up. Listed below are a few examples that, along with accompanying translations, demonstrate the artful deception of Doubletalk. Be on the lookout for Doubletalk as you may find it woven in the conversations of other folks, or your friends, family, even yourself. Its always good to challenge yourself and others when you hear Doubletalk. Good for your personal growth, to keep you Iyanla Vanzant readers out of your basement, or simply to preserve your sanity, if not your integrity.

Janel: "I don't know why these activists are always trying to throw some workshop in the middle of Labor Day Weekend. Don't they know these kids are just not feeling that. Why do they have to be so political? It ain't like we have any real black gay community. We are just too clique-ish!"
Janel's Translation: "I am usually not comfortable with any gay gathering unless it's a party. That's why I don't even bother to attend any Black Pride activities to see if people really do attend them. It's hard to see "me" in the "we" that I criticize. That's why I never thought about what I could do to help build the level of community I claim does not exist. I'm just waiting for somebody else to do all that work so that I can sit back and criticize it. That's just how I am!"
Garvey: "Your right, Janel. Y'all are too clique-ish. In fact, your the problem. If you would just come out, we would have a bigger black gay movement. I've been out and in the struggle since I was 14. Where were you? I'm tired of building these programs because you will not come!"
Garvey's Translation: "I'm tired, I'm weak, and I'm worn. It's the years of activism that I chose to engage in. I don't feel supported by my community. I cannot accept that many black lgbt folks have a different consciousness than me. That's why I use the Nancy Reagan "just say yes and come out" approach. I am more comfortable with preaching to folks about being nothing without addressing the challenges people face in their everyday lives. I've become to jaded to be open to criticism. It's hard for me to appreciate the 5 or 10 people that do attend my workshops. I also haven't taken the time to take care of myself.
That's why I can't smell the smoke from my own Burnout!"
Tanita: "I feel your pain, Garvey. Our community needs to wake up to reality. We are never gonna be accepted as responsible people until we start acting responsibly. If gay men would stop acting like sissies and these dykes would stop lookin' all mannish, we would command respect. And the transgendered ones, they are just bringing us all down. We, I mean, they are just perpetuating stereotypes. We need to show straight people that we are no different. We can be in monogamous relationships, raise children, and go to church just like they do. If we want people to see us as normal, we have to act that way."
Tanita's translation: "I have swallowed the whole package and now I am regurgitating it to my community. I have accepted the heterosexist notion of what is normal. So, like my downpressors, I impose boilerplate norms that deny people the freedom to choose how they love and/or fuck. Like an abused child, I have internalized the message that I am bad. That the problem isn't my abuser/oppressor or the oppressive culture in which I was raised. I am the problem because I am bad (lesbian) and if We just acted good (straight) enough, people will love me/we or at least I/we will be tolerated. Obviously, I haven't read Pat Parker or Audre Lorde."

Chris: "Yes, Tanita and that's why we need to stick together, as queer people, regardless of race. That's why I don't understand why black gays need to separate themselves and have a Black Gay Pride. It only drives yet another wedge in the community. There are white people like myself who are working toward diversity. How does Black Pride help that? I just don't see it." Chris'translation: "As a white man who rarely challenges his own racism and white privilege, I cannot acknowledge the legitimacy of organizing that is not white-centered. I am threatened by the thought of angry black people congregating in a space that doesn't feature me. I prefer to work toward diversity which, for me, means getting more colored faces at a white organization rather than dismantling racism, which means I have to admit to and work on my own racism and share my power and privilege. I believe that Black people should be more open to educating white people. After all, that's what black people are for."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Damon: "Well thank you Chris. I mean, I have worked hard to help bridge the gaps that divide us. I wish more of my people would do things the way the white boys do. They need to stop crying racism and come to the Pride meetings if they want things to change. I think it's important to show white people that there are intelligent, articulate black folks who are willing to do this work with them. That's why I am usually the only fly in the buttermilk." Damon's Translation: "I have bought a package from the same store (different aisle) as Tanita. I believe that my people are inferior to whites and that we must seek and win their approval in order to end our oppression. When my people challenge racism, it embarasses me because I want white people to believe I'm one of the good ones. I oflen hear allegations of racism as a dismissal of all the work I have done with white folks to build bridges. I don't want y'all to trouble the waters even though they are already choppy. I do not fully support black gay organizing (unless it's a club and I'm just checkin' out the honies) because it forces me to look in the mirror. And I don't like what I see there.

Note: These scenarios are loosely based on real conversations with real people. The translations are, of course, subjective and based on the interpretations of the writer.

Suggestions, Questions or Comments? Please contact Craig Washington cw@clikque.com —*CM*—

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Black Pride Labor Day

SUNDAY

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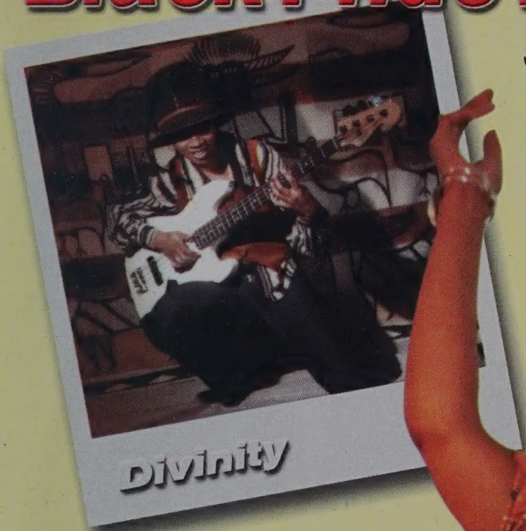

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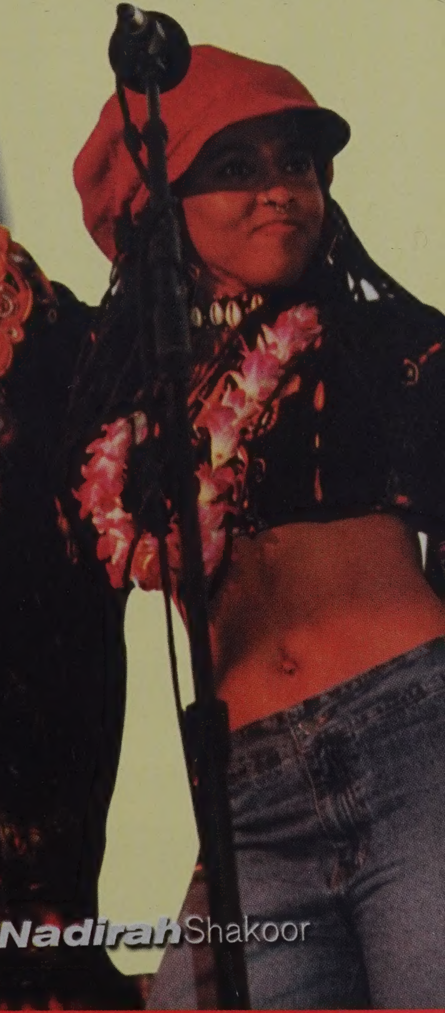

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Girls at play

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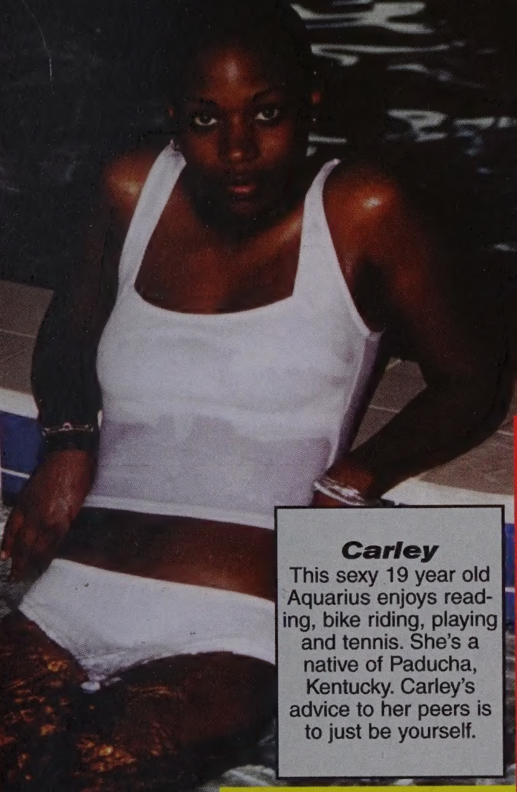
Labor Day Weekend 2000



Carley

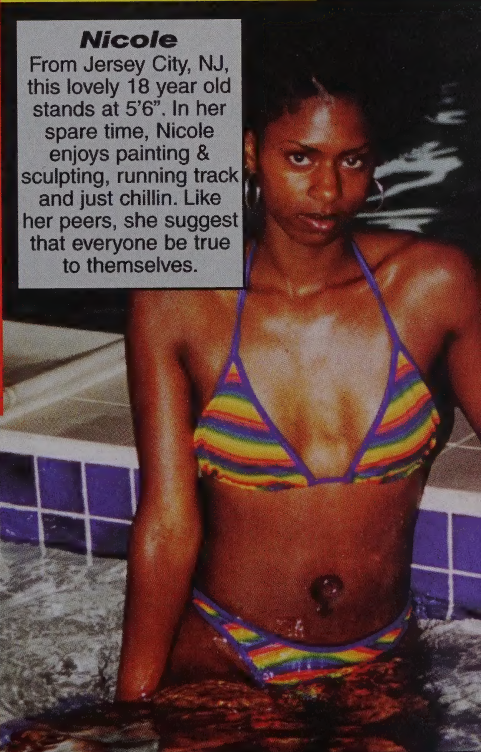
This sexy 19 year old Aquarius enjoys reading, bike riding, playing and tennis. She's a native of Paducha, Kentucky. Carley's advice to her peers is to just be yourself.

Dejong

Standing at 5'8", Dejong comes to us all the way from Long Island NY. This 29 year old loves to dance, swim and as you can see... model. A Mother to two beautiful girls, Dejong also owns her own tire shop.

Stephanie

Wow—This voluptuous Capricorn, standing at 5'8" enjoys playing basketball, billiards and jet skiing. Stephanie is from Austin, TX where all things are bigger and better



Nicole

From Jersey City, NJ, this lovely 18 year old stands at 5'6". In her spare time, Nicole enjoys painting & sculpting, running track and just chillin. Like her peers, she suggest that everyone be true to themselves.

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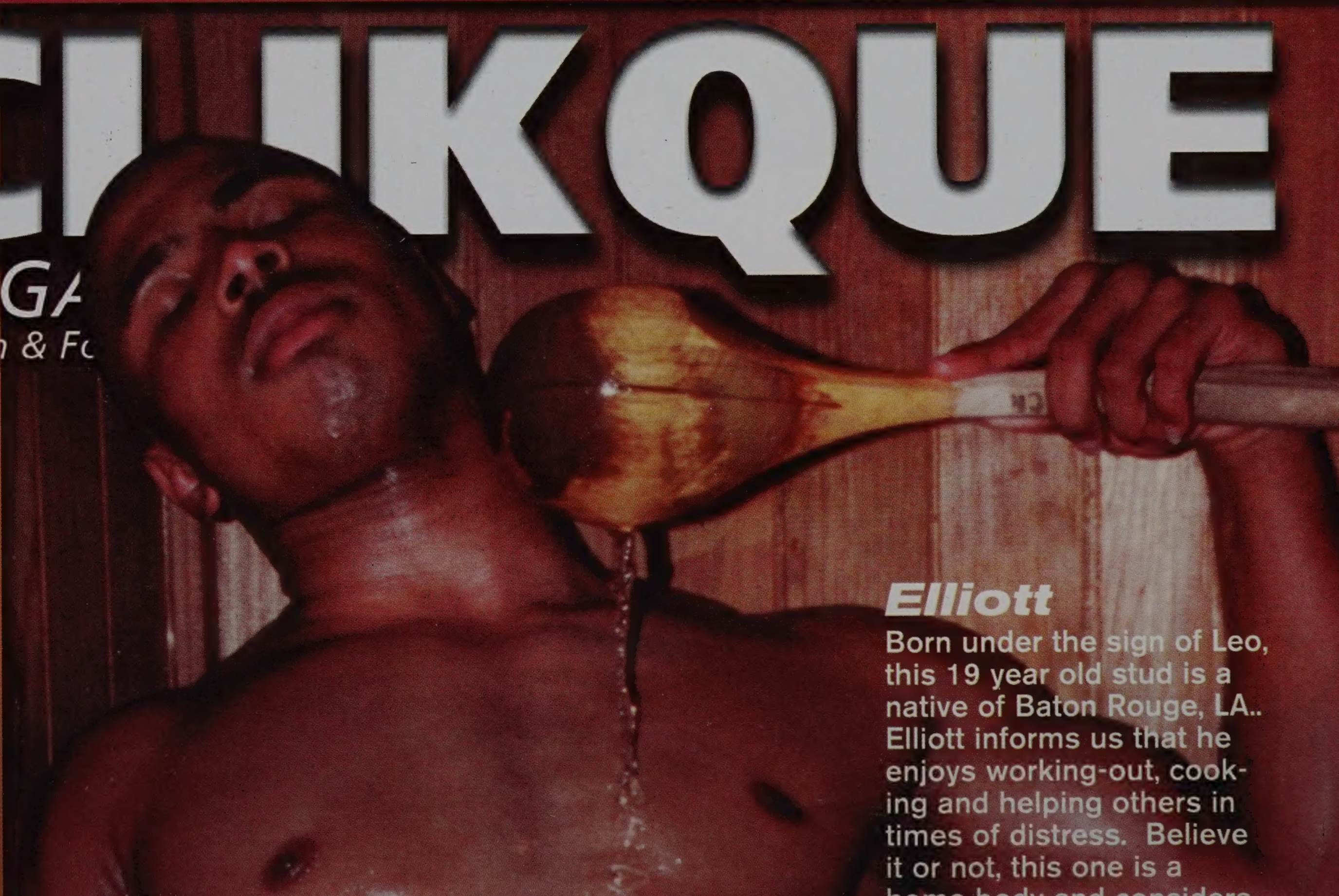

Elliott

Born under the sign of Leo, this 19 year old stud is a native of Baton Rouge, LA.. Elliott informs us that he enjoys working-out, cooking and helping others in times of distress. Believe it or not, this one is a

Beau of the month

LABOR DAY

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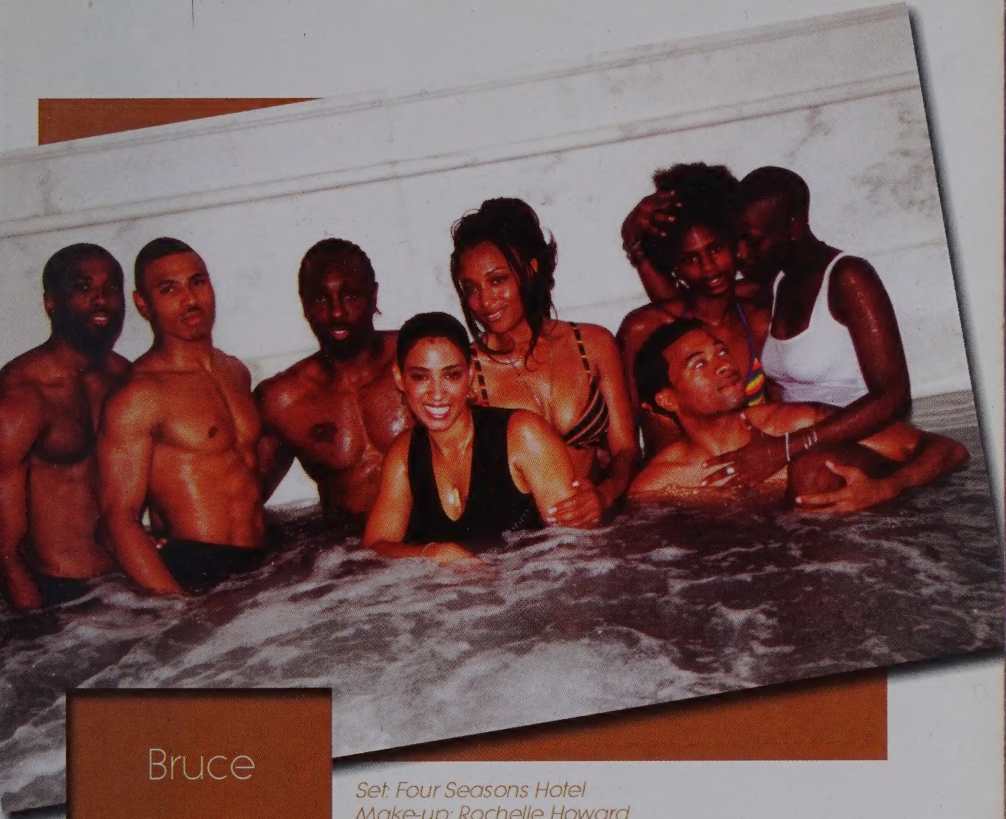
Schatzi
Bruce
Leondra

Bruce:
30 year old Pisces from Camden, NJ enjoys writing

Schatzi:
25 year old Scorpio from Frankfort, Ger enjoys dancing, singing & traveling.

Leondra:
30 something Scorpio from Wilmington, NC enjoys weightlifting, dancing, modeling, basketball and meeting people.



Bruce

Elliott

Leondra

Dejong

Stephanie

Schatzi

Nicole

Carley

Set: Four Seasons Hotel
Make-up: Rochelle Howard
Photos by: Dwight Powell

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LABOR DAY 2000

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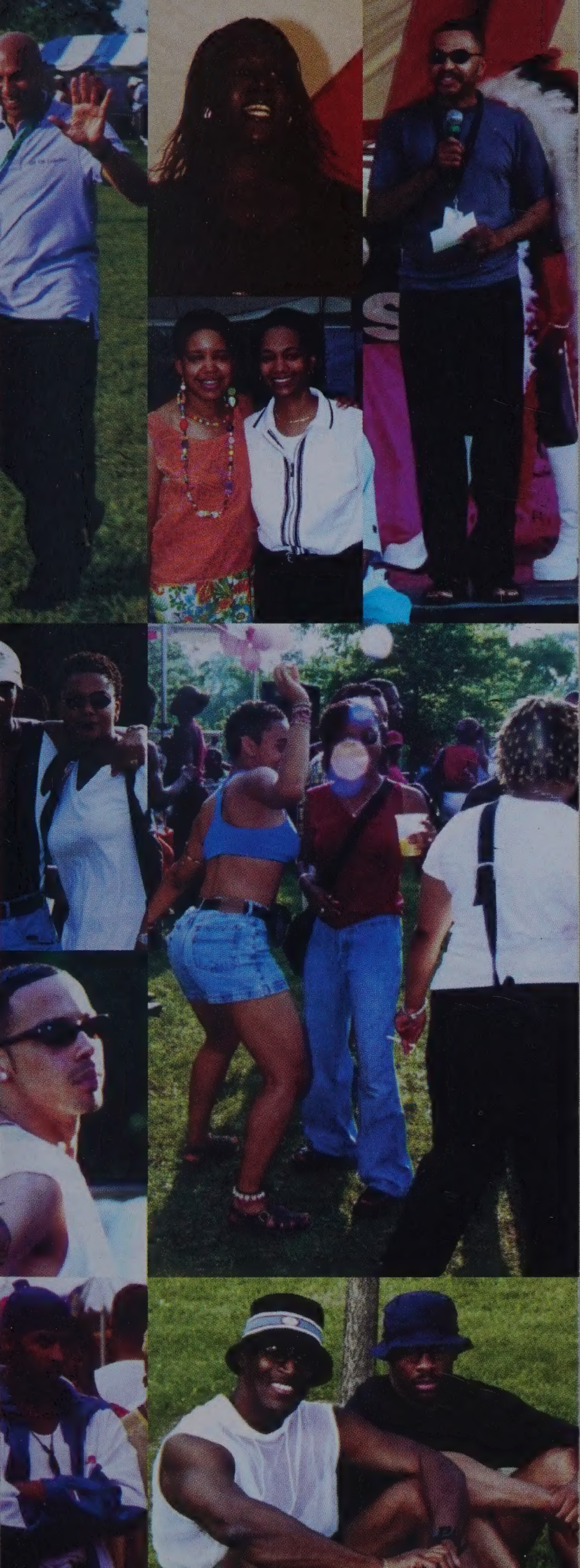

Chicago Black Pride
@ The Park
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A Pictorial Overview

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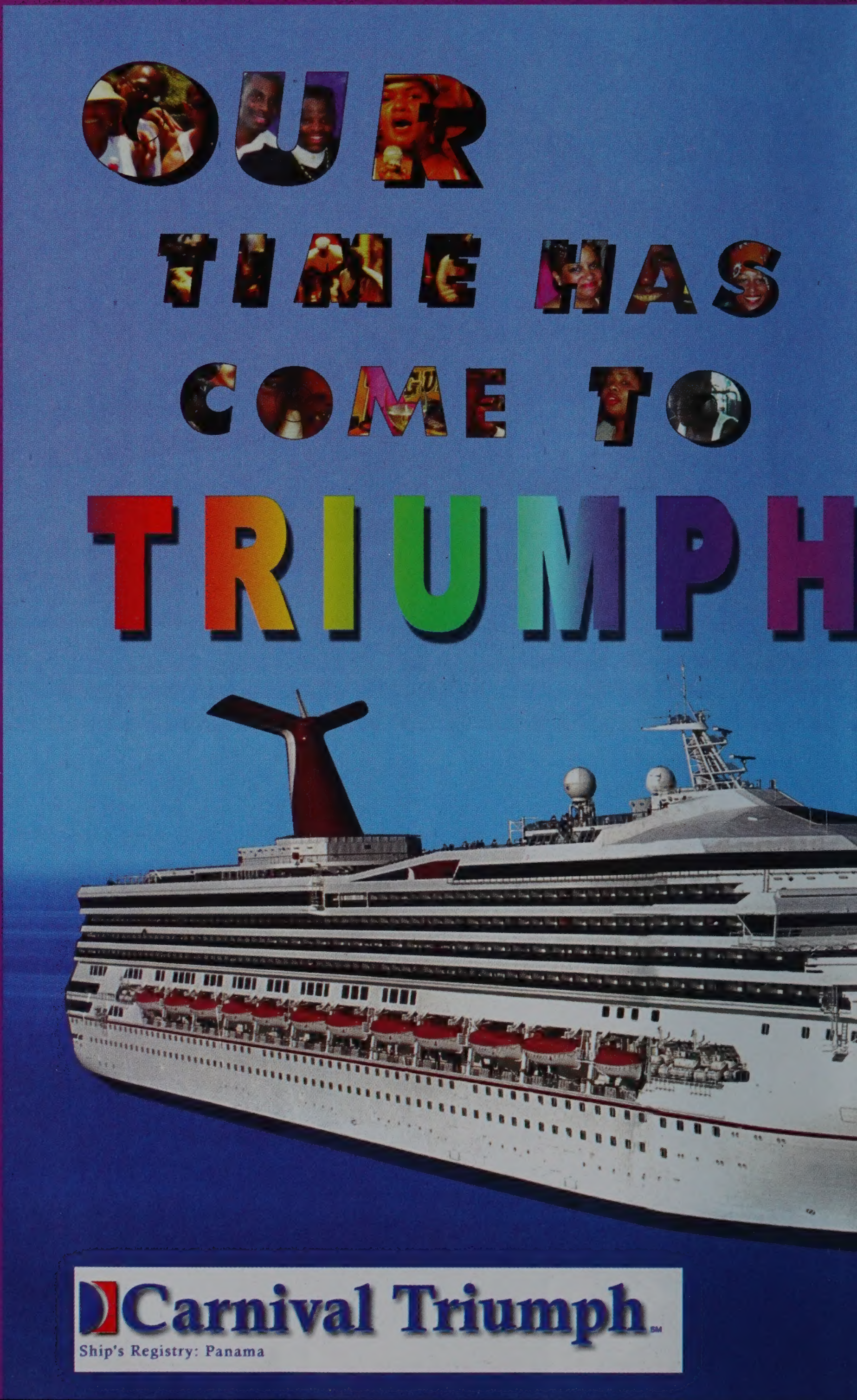

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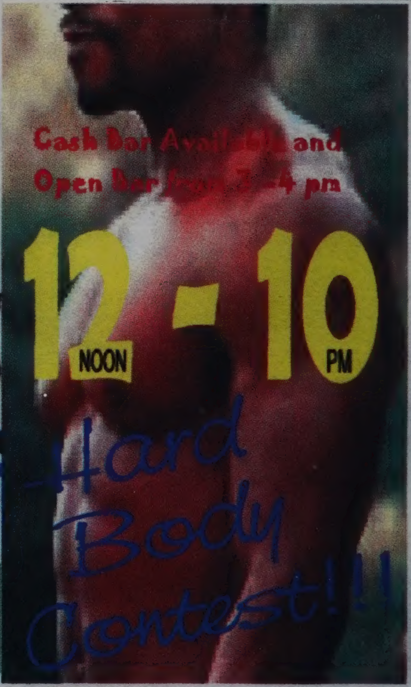
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DALLAS PRIDE WEEKEND

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BLUES NIGHT WI DJ 008
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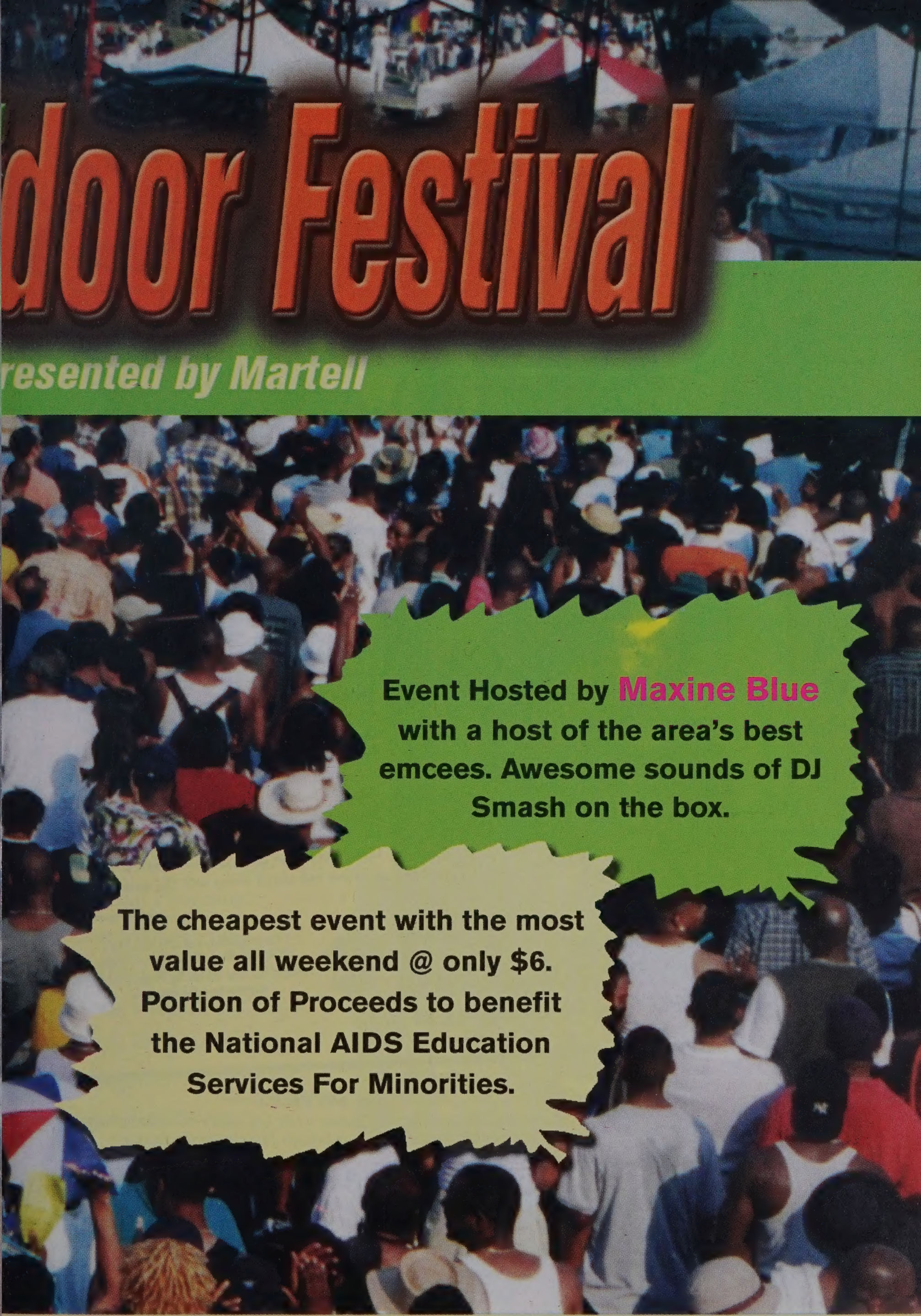

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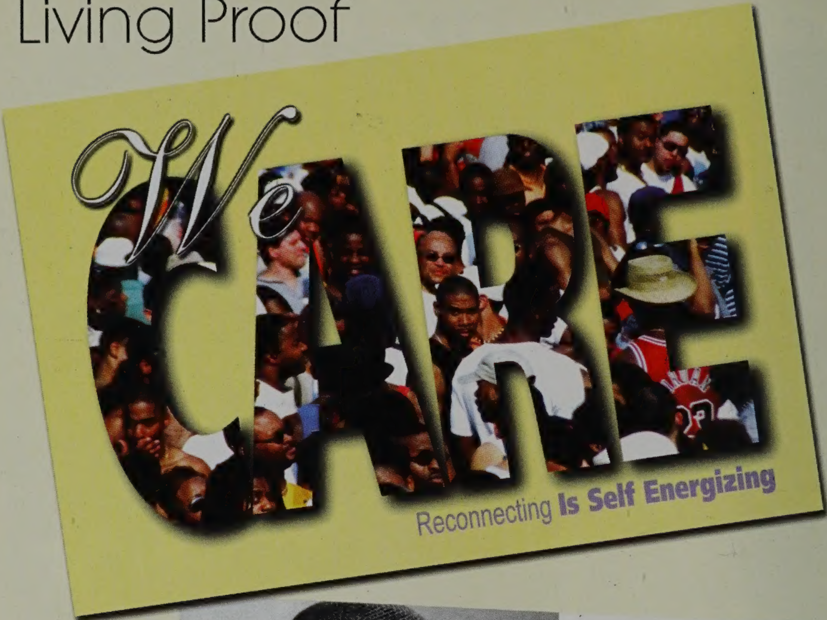

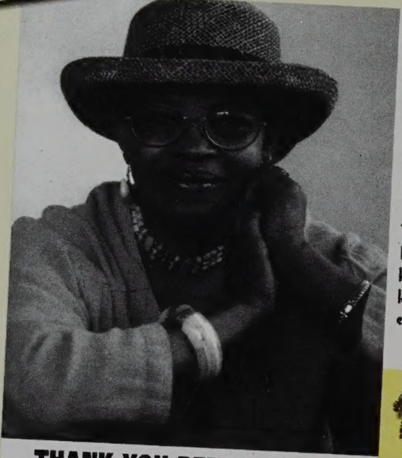

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HIV/STD Prevention
Substance Abuse Counseling & Treatment
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written by staff writer
M Liz Marshall
Detroit, MI.

THEY STILL **DON'T** GET IT

Ok, when you've told your folks, told your friends, your co-workers and everyone on planet earth your sexual preference, why do they still insist on trying to hook you up with the opposite sex? This baffles me, flat out frustrates me, after all my arduous effort of coming out and people still refuse to see the big picture. If it's happened to you, then undoubtably you can relate and appreciate that. If it hasn't, my mother would say: "keep on living."

The saga continues. As you all know, I am a lesbian. No secret there! From coast to coast, as far as any publication that I write for can travel, that is a well-known fact about me. My gay male friends bring others over to visit me, and they always remark that my home epitomizes "pride." That's just the way I am, I pull no punches! Yet, I continuously encounter these all to common instances of people waltzing around with blinders on that just refuse to accept what is a clear and blatant truth. Ever happen to you? Aren't you sick of it? What else can we do? I suppose that there is no easy solution except to expand and seek to elucidate over and over and over again. Let me tell you what I have had to put up with. During this week alone, I have had the distinct pleasure (I am facetious) of being chased by a straight man. I guess some of you are saying that isn't at all unusual, after all straight women try to snag our gay brothers all of the time. Then, lesbians have men constantly trying to have menage a trois type interludes with us and I keep telling them they need a bisexual for that. No offense intended, but I don't see me in the middle of a guy and a girl. Three women, yes indeed, but any sort of combination move and I'm too through! Back to the subject at hand. My point is this, I told him flat out and he is determined that we are going to have a monogamous relationship. Is it me? Let me tell you where I met this guy...ladies night at one of Detroit's topless bars. We all take in the sights together, so we end up intermingling and socializing with a variety of people. Generally, all sexual preferences are represented but as you can see, not necessarily respected. Why isn't it acceptable to graciously thank the person for their interest, verbalize that you don't swing that way and be left the hell alone? I swear, they still don't get it. Fortunately for those of you reading this article, maybe this will give you an opportunity to think up some creative solutions before this issue arises in your life. When come up with some, please let me know what's up!

Moving right along, the brother asked for my digits and that's cool I have straight male friends. Silly me, I thought that he'd eventually wake up and smell the cappucino but then he wanted to go out on some dates. Yes, he has stated that he would like to exclusively date me and I am not down for that. To get to the end of my bantering on and venting to an audience, he thought he was in for a freak show. They still don't get it, we are so much more that that. I prefer intimacy with a partner of my own sex to get freaky with anyway! The bottom line is this... I try and try to be nice, empathic to the tunnel vision of people that ignore my standpoint, my designated place in the universe. I told him that no matter what he did, said, or desired, I was not and could not become it. I don't like to be rude, but when others overlook my personal preferences and make decisions for me, it becomes a necessity. Perhaps there will come a day when there will be peace on earth and a time when we can be polite about our space. Until then, handle your business, because I am going to handle mine. Thanks for being there for me y'all! Peace! **–CM–**

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"A condom everytime..."
"Always play safe..."
If Only It Were That Simple.

DOOR655

written by senior staff writer
Queshan Hayes
atlanta, ga.

The Saga Continues...

Hello readers. Here is another hot episode of Door 655. Last month you heard it...You heard William tell Craig that he loved him. Was it real? Did it mean anything? Has this opened another door? Then you saw what happens when you leave a total stranger in your home for five minutes. Silas got robbed by his 'guest' as he showered. It was his rent money. What is he gonna do? I left you with a bleeding Craig and a broke Silas...The story picks up here.

Silas did not know where he would get his rent from. But deep down he did. As he made love to Craig in the pouring rain, he vowed to himself that he would never sell himself again. He was now in a compromising position. He had no extra cash and rent was due tomorrow. This time, if he was late the proper authorities would definitely boot him out of his home. He sat down on the edge of his bed as he held his now worthless pair of pants in his arms. The musty smell of marijuana and sweat entered his nostrils. He just couldn't believe he was robbed. He had only hung out with this supplier twice before this particular visit. So he had know idea if he would ever run into him again. All that he had was a pager number and he knew that the rogue wouldn't respond to any of his pages now.

"Shit!! What was I thinking leavin' that motha fucka in my room! Shit!" he said as he threw his pants to the floor. He was desperate. He had no where to go. He knew what he had to do, no matter how much he knew he would regret it. He got fully dressed. He went over to his phone and dialed some numbers. In seconds, he was connected.

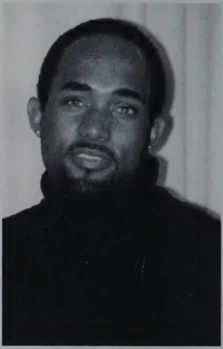
"Hello?"

"Wassup yo? Dis Red."

"I know who this is. What's up. I haven't seen your name, or whoever name that is, on my caller ID for a while."

"Oh, you got jokes now, huh?"

"You know I'm just messin' with you. Do what you got to do to reach out and touch somebody, even if it means usin' somebody else's name," he laughed.



"Yeah, yeah, yeah."

"What do you want Silas?"

"I....I....want you, Wes."

****

William was thrown, but had no time to reply. He immediately stopped the running water. "Hey, man, we need to get you some help. Can you move? NO! Don't move! You not supposed to move somebody with a head injury," he snapped as he tried to hold Craig down.

"No, William, that's for neck injuries. It's my head, not my neck," said Craig, drowsily.

"It doesn't matter. Just don't move. Here, hold this right here," he said as he reached and handed Craig a towel to place under his head. "I'll be back. I'm callin' the ambulance." He disappeared into Craig's apartment. Craig just laid there holding the towel behind his head. He couldn't believe it. He was lying in a bath tub with a bleeding opening in his head and all that he thought about was that William had said he loved him. Then, he began to think deeper about the situation, something he always seemed to do.

"Maybe he said it just because he thought I was dying. Did he really mean it? Did the kiss really mean something to him? I heard him say it, God. I heard him say it, and that's all that matters," he finally said to himself. At that moment, he began to get dizzy. Suddenly, all that he saw was blackness. He was out again.

****

"You don't mean that, Silas," Wes said as he felt his dick begin to rise.
'Yeah, I do, Wes. I know I was kinda hard on you last night, but that was because I was protecting myself."
"What do you mean, 'protecting' yourself?"
"I don't know. I just kinda told myself that I wasn't gonna fuck around anymore. You, know, be cool and just chill and shit. But I was here all last night thinkin' bout you, yo. Just seein' you again brought a lot of shit back. Damn, Wes, it is good when we get together, you know that," he lied as he rolled his eyes.

"Yeah, I know. It's damn good," smiled Wes.

"So what's up?"

" You need me to come get you?"

Continues on Page 91

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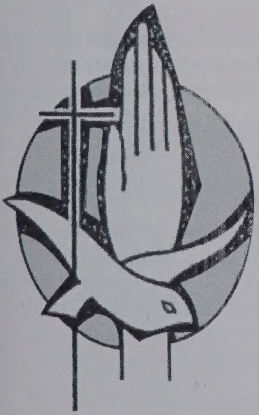

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By Entertainment Editor: Jason Michael

Tall, Dark & "Strong"

a closer look at Detroit□s Strongarm Productions

Anthony Winn had no idea that such a simple idea would turn into a sensational success.

"I decided to throw a party, something that had never done before," said Winn. But he didn't want to throw just any kind of party. "I wanted to throw a set that was different from anything that was going on here."

So Winn called in close friend Jammin' John Collins and two put the wheels in the motion, sending out invitations on CD for the Black and White party, a free party at Winn's house that took place in November of 1997.

"John deejayed in the basement. We had dancers, the whole nine yards," recalled Winn. "The party turned out to be a huge success, way beyond anything we'd imagined at the time. Afterward, people just kept asking, 'when's the next party?'"

So Winn set out to find several strong and beautiful brothers to set the right vibe and help him plan a sizzling set.

"I set out to find the kind of brother who had class, character, social skills, and was physically real right," said Winn. "They would be the honey to attract the bees in terms of promoting hot boy parties."

He called the motley group "Strongarm Productions," but soon it was clear that their bulk wasn't only a physical trait. These brothers had brains, too. Strongarm eventually set up shop at the Charles Johanson Gallery in Detroit's Eastern Market area, throwing parties there every three months. But soon they wanted more, and Winn set his eye on an even bigger prize.

"We had been courting Club One X ever since our security company, Strongarm Security, did business with them during Hotter Than July in the summer of 98," said Winn. "I had been courting them for a year and a half with no success when one of the owners showed up incognito to our set and partied hard all night long. I got a call from him about a week after the party and he asked me if I thought I could duplicate what he saw at the Charles Johanson Gallery every Saturday night at One X."

Winn told him he could, and soon Strongarm was on the move once again. In One X, they found a rare opportunity. The club was basically closed, its size a detractor to business. One of the largest gay-owned clubs in the area, One X could hold a whopping 1,000 people. And while Strongarm knew their crowd was too large to fit into any of the city's black-owned clubs, could they fill a club as large as One X?

The answer, as they found from their first Saturday night set at One X, just three weeks after the last Charles Johanson Gallery gig, was yes. And since that time, early last fall, Strongarm has consistently been pulling in between 550-650 brothers every Saturday night, making it the largest black gay Saturday night set in the Midwest.

But these brothers do more than just party. At last year's Aphrodisiac party, Strongarm took time out to recognize several community groups, as well as brother groups Fufu Entertainment from Chicago and Atlanta's own Milestone Productions. This year, Strongarm will once again present awards, this time to Rails Entertainment Group and Big Luke Productions from Chicago, Men of Color and Midwest AIDS Prevention Project from Detroit, Ira Palmer of DC, and yours truly, Clikque Magazine.

"We give them to groups, businesses and individuals who have made a difference over the past year," said Winn.

So with that, Clique returns the favor and tips our hat to Strongarm. Keep doin' it strong, fellas. —***CM***—

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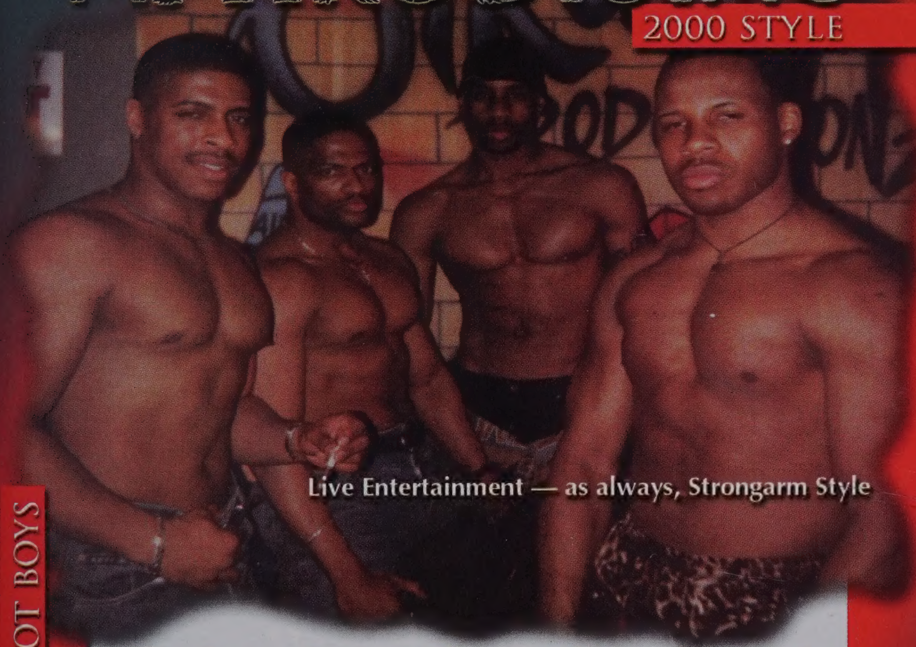

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Meet The Heart and Soul of Ishai Books

What started out as a press for one or two books has developed into ten in one short year. The Ishai Books story is destined to have a happy ending if owners Rollins and Robertson have anything to say about it.

Ricc Rollins and Lorenzo Robertson are two of today's newest names in the world of business. Together they have carved a niche for themselves in the world of publishing by establishing one of only five black gay owned and operated publishing houses, Ishai (pronounced Ee-shy) Books, a small press publishing entity located in Tampa, Florida.

Established in December of 1998, Ishai Books presented it's first title, Like Breathing and the rest is history. To date, Ishai Books is responsible for eleven titles gracing the shelves of mainstream, independent, black and gay book stores around the country, these titles include: Like Breathing, Colorblind, The Best Man, Detached, The Men's Room, Everything Has a Price, Eclectic Essence, When the Children Get Together, Discretion and Just a Little Talk with Jesus.

Ricc Rollins & Lorenzo C. Robertson
Partners & Co-Founders of Ishai, Inc.

As with any new business, Ricc and Lorenzo have had their share of "growing pains" and are very candid about those pains. " We are still learning the business and feeling our way. It's exciting and frightening at the same time. We have had to learn about the business while doing the business , " Rollin said as he leans back in the leather chair that graces his office, " And there have been some readers who have expected us to immediately be as foolproof as larger publishers and I think that to some degree we have to be better at what we do, while feeling our way ." Robertson adds, " Between finding staff that really has our vision and terminating the relationships with those who don't, we've learned very valuable lessons about people, the industry and ourselves."

Rollins and Robertson both agree that the most difficult part of the whole process has been finding editors for their projects that were affordable and local. " And we know that there were typos in some of the books, but Ishai thanks the people who overlooked them and read on anyway." Lorenzo says as a grateful smile adorns his face.

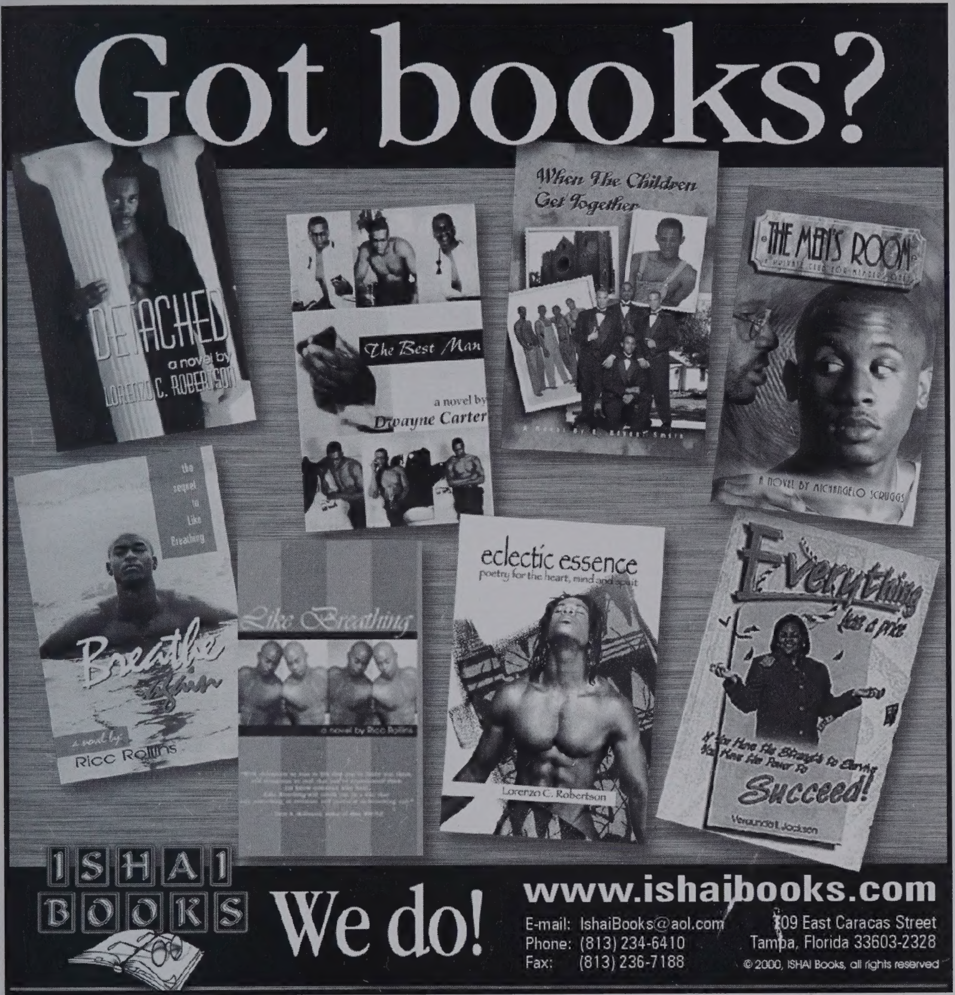
"And to those who couldn't resist writing, as we said in most of our e-mail replies, come grow with us."

The duo also shared their plans for expansion with two new publishing venues in the works to house spiritual, motivational and self-help books as well as a children's division, appropriately entitled, Ishai Kidz.

"Ishai Books will continue to house all of the fiction and infotainment works and the other two venues will house everything else so people don't assume who is writing what and we can better identify the target market and the reader, " Rollins says before answering a call from a bookstore wanting to place an order."

Robertson picks up where his partner leaves off, " We thought that we could house everything under one roof, but because Ishai started out as a press with only SGL writings, we knew that there would be those who would try to box us in and not acknowledge our ability to house all types of works. "

Currently, Ishai Books has twelve other titles in the works for the next year including a collection of dark and erotic stories in a collection entitled, Reckonings, by DC author and activist, L. Michael Gipson due out later this fall. In addition to introducing new works by freshmen and seasoned authors, both Rollins and Robertson will have new installments of their best-selling works. Ricc is busily working on the already requested sequel to Like Breathing and Breathe Again, appro-


Got books?
Detached
a novel by Lorenzo C. Robertson
The Best Man
a novel by Dwayne Carter
When The Children Get Together
The Men's Room
a novel by Michangelo Scruggs
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priately entitled, Bated Breath. And Lorenzo is putting the finishing touches on Attached, the sequel to his debut offering, Detached.

In addition to Ishai Books, Rollins and Robertson also co-own the Ishai Creative Group, Inc., a project development and public relations company. They also are cofounders of BrothasSpeak, a discovery and discussion group committed to the enhancement, empowerment, education and inspiration of SGL (same gender loving) men of color. And while the duo has reached noteworthy goals collectively, Rollins and Robertson have excelled individually as well.

Lorenzo C. Robertson, a native of Pahokee, Florida has worked as a radio announcer, vocational counselor to both youth and the homeless. Previously, he was the director of public relations for an AIDS service agency. At present, he is the director of outreach and prevention for the People of Color AIDS Coalition, an agency committed to the holistic healing of people of color affected and effected by HIV and AIDS. He is also preparing his one man show, Me, Myself and I.

Ricc Rollins, is a native of Tampa, Florida is the proud father of two. He is also an ordained minister, former school teacher, newspaper columnist and award-winning talk show host. Until recently, he was the host of the late night FOX infotainment, talk show, UpFRONT with Ricc Rollins and prior to that, The Ric (spelled with one "c "at the time) Rollins Show.

When asked what's next, Rollins and Robertson look at each other and chuckle before answering. "I'm wanting to see the Breathing series as a movie, an HBO movie or stageplay. And after that I have some other ideas in the works."

"And I want to us to go on a vacation for the first time. A real vacation, " Robertson says looking over his glasses at his partner.

"A vacation, what's that?" Rollins says returning the glance. Ishai Books has a website at www.ishaibooks.com and most titles are avaialble in book stores around the country.
—CM—

Clikque America Preliminary Dates

Miss Clikque America 2000

Teryl-Lynn Foxx

New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS, LA:

AUGUST 25, 2000 at Moma Rosa's. Registration fee $100.00 contact Montreal Coleman @ (504)943-5577 or Teryl-Lynn Foxx @ (504)947-5474 for more information.

HOUSTON, TX:

SEPTEMBER 9, 2000 @ 10:00 pm. At N-Cognito, the Club. Entrance fee $100.00 contact Randé Rochelle for more information (713) 413- 9317

MEMPHIS, TN:

SEPTEMBER 24, 2000 @ Club In-Cognito. Contact Alisha Kelly for further details (901) 521-6922

COLUMBIA, SC:

OCTOBER 13 @ The Candy Shop. Entrance Fee $75.00 Contact Chanel Le'Faris @ (803)419-0172

RICHMOND, VA:

OCTOBER 14, 2000 Entrance fee $80.00. Contact Christopher Jones (804) 756-3474 for further details

DALLAS, TX:

OCTOBER 27, 2000 @ The Metro. Entrance Fee $100.00 Contact Jason Menendez (972) 506-9228 for further details

WASHINGTON, DC:

NOVEMBER 5, 2000 Registration fee $100.00. Contact Miss Clikque Washington, DC 2000/Jerry Lee Van Hook for more details at (202)518-6088

CHICAGO, IL:

NOVEMBER 13, 2000 @ The Biology Bar. Entrance fee $100.00. Contact The House of Tutt for more details (312)204-2763

DETROIT, MI:

NOVEMBER 17, 2000 @ Off Broadway East. Entrance fee $100.00. Contact Dodjier Frantz for more details (313)402-7129 or (313)778-5339

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NOVEMBER 19, 2000 Registration fee $100.00 Contact the Clikque Pageantry Systems National office at 404-817-3898 for details.

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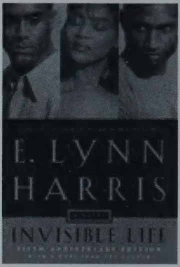
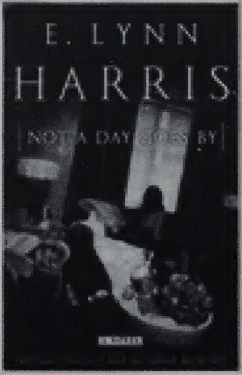
Excerpted from NOT A DAY GOES BY

by E. Lynn Harris



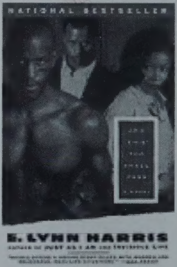
My lady, Yancey, changed my life. Sometimes I think she saved my life. My name is John Basil Henderson and I guess I'm what you call a former bad boy. I was the kind of dude who was getting so much play, I needed to buy condoms by the barrel. About two years ago, all that changed when I met Yancey Harrington Braxton the day before Christmas at Rockefeller Center while skating with my five-year-old nephew, Cade. Yancey walked right up and started a conversation while flirting with both Cade and myself. I loved her confidence. We were both smitten at her first hello. Yancey is, as the young dudes would say, a "dime piece" ... a perfect ten.

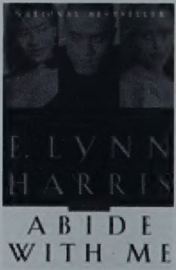
When I met Yancey I was in the midst of a pre-midlife crisis. I had just turned thirty-three and my childhood dream of playing pro football was already over. Wasn't shit going right for me. I was actually seeing a shrink, trying to figure out why I had such disdain for both men and women while, at times, being sexually attracted to both. I was spending too much time trying to get even with this mofo, Raymond Tyler who didn't even know how strongly I felt about him. For me, Raymond stood on that thin line between love and hate. There were so many things I liked--no, loved--about him, but I also hated feeling that way toward any man. It just wasn't right.

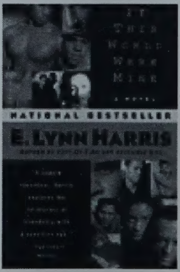


I had gone to the doctor to face my past--a past that included my sexual molestation by a much beloved uncle. I wrote that no good mofo a letter telling him how he had screwed up my life with his sick ass, but the mofo died before I could mail it. I was surprised at how writing shit down and talking out loud about how I was feeling helped me. But the good doctor wasn't excited about my relationship with Yancey, and when I disagreed, we parted ways. It wasn't as if he said, "If you continue in the relationship I can no longer see you, Mr. Henderson." I just stopped going and he never called to see if I was okay. I guess he didn't need the money.

JUST AS I AM
E. LYNN HARRIS







There have been times in my life that were so painful that I didn't think I could share them with another living soul, but then that person walks into your life, and you don't know whether to be afraid or feel relief. You don't know whether to be afraid or feel relief. You don't know whether to run or stand still, That was the way I felt about meeting Yancey. When I told her how my father had raised me to believe that my mother was dead, which I later found out was a total lie, Yancey held me tight and I felt her tears on my naked shoulder. At times I feel as though I could tell her anything, and then I remember she is a woman and wouldn't understand some of the things I

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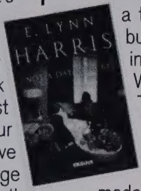
have been through and done. So, despite my bone-deep love for Yancey, I've kept some secrets about myself she just wouldn't understand.



My love for Yancey hit me hard. I guess that's the way real love works. I love the way she makes me feel like I'm the only man in a roomful of thousands. I love the way other men and women look at us when we walk hand in hand into some of New York's finest restaurants and nightclubs, or during our simple walks through Central Park. I love watching her perform on the Broadway stage and in cabarets, where Yancey charms both owners and patrons. I love the sound of her singing, not only on the stage but in the bathroom, while she sits at her vanity and brushes her hair.

But one of the things I love the most about Yancey is that she reminds me of myself. I guess both of us have taken so much shit from our families that we don't too kindly to outsiders. We are each other's best friend. To the outside world we're the diva and the dawg, but not with each other. Once I took her to Athens, Georgia, for a college football game. After the game we went to a sports bar for beer and chicken wings. The redheaded waitress with colossal breasts was diggin' me. When she served us, ole girl bent down so low I could smell her deodorant. Yancey definitely took note. So when the waitress did one more dip and looked me directly in the eyes and asked, "Can I git anything else for y'all?" Yancey stood up and said, "Yes, you can git them fake titties out of my man's face." That's my Yancey. Another time, shortly after we first started dating and I was still keeping a few freaks on the side, Yancey came over to spend the night. I came out of the shower expecting to see her lying in my bed wearing something sexy but she was fully dressed. When I asked her what was up, she told me, "I don't sleep in no bed where I can smell another woman's perfume or pussy." I got the message.

I had a gig doing sportscasting for a network, and when I became fed up with the way they were treating me, Yancey convinced me that I could do better. As we talked one evening while enjoying a late supper, I realized I wanted a business that combined my love for sports and making money. A couple of weeks later a former teammate called me looking for additional capital to expand his small sports management agency. I hadn't heard from Brison Tucker since the night the two of us went out and got messed up big time after we were both chosen in the first round of the NFL draft. Brison was injured after four years in the league, and had spent several years working in Canada as a scout. A couple of long dinners and months later, I was no longer a talking head at ESPN doing second-rate college games but a partner of XJI (X Jocks Inc.) one of the fastest-growing sports agencies in the country, with offices in New York, Washington, D.C., and Atlanta, with over thirty employees. The agency is looking to add another partner and open offices in Chicago and Los Angeles.

Joining the XJI was the right move at the right time. I had made some decent money with Internet stocks and was looking for another investment. Instead of just handing over money, I joined the firm as a partner. This year alone, XJI has six potential number-one picks in the upcoming NFL draft as well as four NBA lottery picks. I personally signed three of the players. The agency also has a couple of NBA superstars who left their white agents and signed with us, as well as a couple of WNBA players and some track and field hardheads. I love what I do and I've rekindled some old friendships with my partners and made new friends with some of the players I represent. I feel a certain power when I make big-money deals for my clients, especially since the money is coming from wealthy owners who view the players as possessions. If these rich mofos want to play with my players, then I make sure they pay major benjamins.

As for me, myself, and I? We're rollin' like a bowling ball! I recently purchased a penthouse loft on Lafayette Street with twenty-six-foot-high ceilings and wood-burning fireplaces in both the living room and the master bedroom. I got a closetful of finely tailored suits and I could go months without wearing the same pair of draws or socks. Yancey and I take vacations in places like Jamaica, Fisher Island, and Paris whenever New York becomes too much of a grind. I'm doing better than I ever did when I was playing professional football.

Still, the biggest change in my life is the way I feel about women. With the love of Yancey and my sister, Campbell, I have come to view women differently for the very first time. I didn't know I had a sister until two years ago, just before I met Yancey. Turns out my mom had remarried and on her deathbed told Campbell she had a brother. She tracked me down, and suddenly I had two new women in my life. Before, I'd never have let women get that close to me.

In Campbell I see a woman determined to give her son, Cade, and husband, Hewitt, the best she has to offer. Sometimes I just like to watch her with Cade, feeding him french fries or making sure his coat is buttoned up before he goes out into the cold. I love the way she smiles and hugs him whenever he comes into a room, even when he's only been gone for a short time.

There was a time in my life when I had a lot of anger toward women. I put them in two categories: whores and sluts. The only difference is, a whore gives up the sex because she wants something material, whereas a slut just loves the sex. I have been with both, but I didn't like the power pussy had over me. Maybe my anger toward women happened because I grew up without a mother, or because I simply hadn't met the right woman. Now, thanks to Yancey and Campbell, I no longer view them as a resting place for my manhood but a place where I can rest my heart. Now don't get me wrong, I ain't whipped and I'm not ready for the choir robe and halo, I still got my tough-guy-swagger (when needed). The only difference between two years ago and today is I realize that a tough-guy swagger looks just as dumb as a robe and halo. —***CM***—

BROTHER 2 BROTHER

Brother 2 Brother was established in June of 2000. This is the first program in Orlando, Florida to target African American men who have Sex with Men (MSM) and incarcerated males. An affiliate of "Miracle of Love, Inc.," Brother 2 Brother will work to heighten awareness of personal risk levels for HIV infection amongst MSMs. Community Impact will work to increase public understanding, and involvement in, and support for STD/HIV Prevention in Orlando, Florida (Area 7 EMA). Group level intervention for incarcerated males will work to reduce the incidence of HIV infection.

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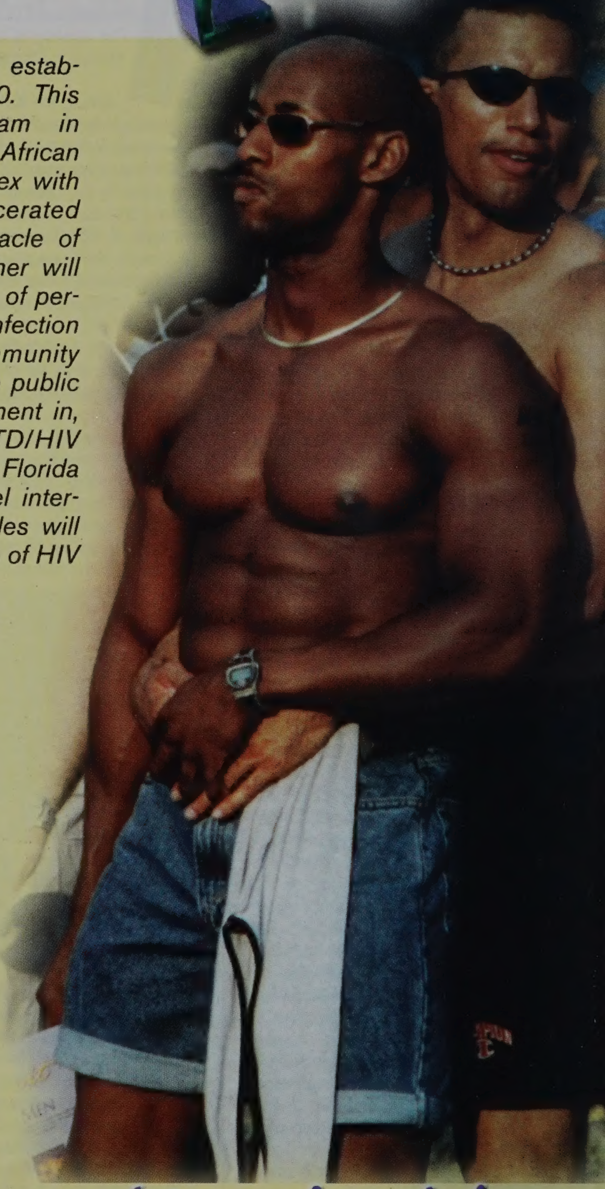

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Ruff N Stuff

Comedian On The Loose. Chicago's Ruff-N-Stuff makes a name for her, er... himself

4By: Darryl!

Hold on to your sides there's a new voice in the crowd, Ms. Ruff-N-Stuff. It might take you a minute to determine what a ruff-n-stuff is. A little bit of "him," a pinch of "her," a dash of "butch," a smidgen of "fem," and a whole heapin' pile of fun is what makes up a ruff-n-stuff. Now don't try this at home it takes precision and care to create a ruff-n-stuff.

Ruff-N-Stuff is not for the faint hearted or the temperamental. If you cannot take a joke then you better hide in the crowd...but the secret to hiding in the crowd is not looking like you're hiding in the crowd. Any good connoisseur of comedy knows that if you look like you don't want to be called out; you're gonna be called out. Just ask anyone of the unsuspecting "hiders" any Monday night at the Biology Bar where Ruff-N-Stuff can be seen mixing up her...his...her unique blend of laughs, gfaws, snorts, and tears. Joined by the flamendously talented Flame Monroe- Chicago's most well known comedienne. In fact the two together are so big and so hot they make meteorites look like a fire flies.

By the time you read this the Biology Bar in Chicago may be so hottt that you might have to make reservations for your weekly serving of "roast" and "toast." For those of you who have not seen a ruff-in-stuff look closely because we will accept no imitations! Clikque managed to catch hold to Ruff-N-Stuff long enough to get a few laughs of our own (but we'll share them with you).

Born October 1998 out of a need for a host for the show at the club Ruff-N-Stuff took her inspiration from Diana Ross and the "girls." The creator of Ruff-N-Stuff offers this insight into the character," she was created to make fun of the "girls" because they get into head trips. So she mimics them, you know everything is about them . They take this so seriously. Ruff-N-Stuff doesn't but they do. That's how the character was created. Local thrift stores and wig shoppes will never be the same again. This thing is off the hook. She's outrageous.

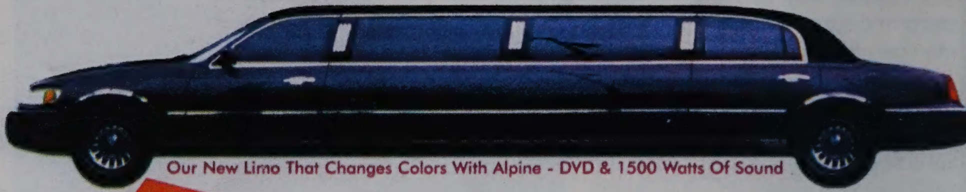
Ask her what her future plans are and she replies.. "I'm developing a strategic plan to take over the world." "It's all about me, me, me. I'm too much for the American people. They don't want me. I'm the First lady and I'm in charge of everyone." And I carry three pistols. One in the hair, one in the bra, and one in the pantyhose." Just why does she carry three pistols? "Look our former leaders were not prepared. They shot Kennedy, they shot King, they shot Malcolm X; they were not prepared...that's why I carry three pistols."

Ruff-N-Stuff claims that she has been asked to take her show on the road to HBO but without pause she states "...I don't want HBO; I want the world." On any night she's on stage the audience is subject to a tirade that is purely ruff-n-stuffesque as she proclaims "It's me Chicago, It's me! Everyone is jealous of me." Her congregation responds to her when she asks, "support team where are you," with cheers and applause. Her support team is comprised of "everyone...because it's all about me!"

> A little bit of "him," a pinch of "her," a dash of butch", a smidgen of "fem, " and a whole heapin' pile of fun is what makes up a ruff-n-stuff

She admits that she has worked with Flame Monroe, the Heavy Diva- Otis Mack, and the hilarious Sophia McIntosh. "They have all asked me for my beauty secrets." To which she responds by saying "no can do!" But she will offer a fashion scope, "my designers are Denzel Pacino, Marko Ravioli, and No-No Mocha."

Ruff-N-Stuff is planning an off the chain anniversary event on October 2, 2000 at the Biology Bar. She says she'll be "flying in people from all over the continental United States and the world." There is only one Ruff-N-Stuff and we're sure that her show will bring all the people to their feet and down on their knees, with laughter. If laughter is medicine for the soul, then one dose of Ruff-N-Stuff should be the cure for whatever ails ya'. —***CM***—



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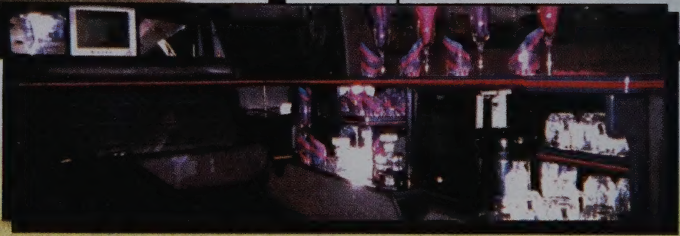

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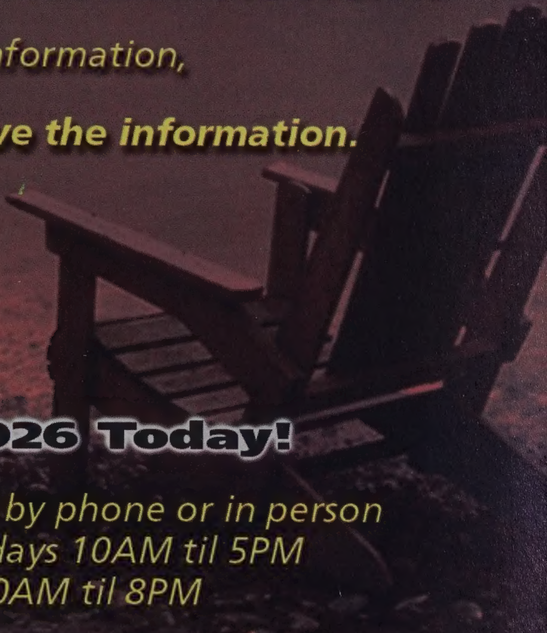

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Colliding Energies

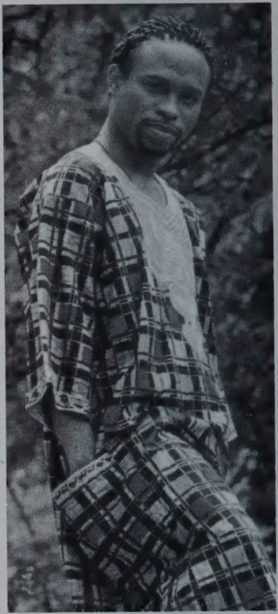
by Darryl! Moch - Editor

As I sit in the Clikque office I look up and out of the windows at the buildings being converted or built all around us. A while back a staff member and I talked about our visions for the magazine. He looked forward to the day when Clikque Magazine could have offices in one of the looming high rises being erected all over Atlanta. I was less concerned about being in a high rise but having the magazine continue achieve a high level of success, literary and financial.

Similarly, I was talking with a good friend of mine about relationships between men and women, especially in our community. He suggested that there are some distinct differences between the ways that women interact with each other and the way men interact. He suggested that these differences lead to a different type of power that ultimately allows women to build stronger bonds and networks. I suggested that he consider this notion with a female friend and see what they come to together. I suspect that things always look "more better" and more organized on the other side of the fence or from the outside looking in. I hope that he will explore this and submit their thoughts for the magazine.

A couple of months ago I was given the great opportunity to speak to a small community in Albany, Georgia. The organization, Men of Distinc, Inc., held their annual weeklong event and invited speakers, elected officials, and other community leaders to provide workshops and seminars. I was honored to participate. What I found in talking with several of the leaders was that although they were working towards the same over all goals, they all wanted different things at the same time. Some of the m wanted the event to be highly successful and bring more people to the group. Others wanted to have a successful and impactful event. The first set were concerned about the numbers of people that showed up the second were interested in the affect of the event. Fortunately the event was successful in both respects but along the way you could see the concern on the members faces as time drew nearer to the event.

It is interesting to consider how we come to the bargaining table together supposedly for the same reasons but we are often not working towards the same things at the same time. Ironically we are in fact moving in the same direction but not often at the same pace. My friend Tony Daniels and I had many conversations about the needs of the community and what could be done. We often agreed on the main objective or vision we both shared for the community but we often differed on the "how" to get there. I think that Tony's energy kept me going, growing, and grasping for new ideas and new opportunities to realize the vision. I hope I did the same for him. Tony, after passing from injuries sustained in a car accident two years ago, left a legacy and challenge. He left a legacy of not just talking but doing. Doing what he could to the best of his ability and expecting others to do the same. He also challenged those of us who still live to continue fighting and to keep working to find innovative and dramatic ways to impact the community.



I think that the energies for change often collide with other energies for change. Meaning we all do not act, think, or react the same way. These differences when they attract and collide with each other propel us into action. It is this agitation that causes us to move on our convictions and effect change for ourselves. The problem with colliding energies comes when we mistake differences and challenges as obstacles and begin fighting with each other. This in-fighting causes the dissipation of energy and separates us from our goals and objectives. When we are at odds with each other we cannot see the purpose or plan and begin to tear each other down rather than build on each other's strengths, overcoming weaknesses and the real enemies to our mission.

The differences in our thoughts and desires allow for change to happen in dynamic and innovative ways. We must constantly seek to create for ourselves the world we want and need. Consider, if we see our sister's and brother's differences as possibilities rather than obstacles we could come together more often. If we choose to allow for differences in opinion and "other" possible solutions we just might find that more and more people will either be included or seek to be included in what ever we are doing. Whether we are a pride committee/organization, support group/peer group, non-profit or for -profit business, or some other group we are more powerful and impactful when we use our colliding energies as a catalyst for progress.

Like the three examples above, the staff's visions for Clikque, the young man with questions of male and female bonding, or the differences in approaches what really matters is what we do with our energy. Will we let the colliding energies be used for good or to divide. Consider for yourself. Take the positive and use it and then take negative and use it for good. Colliding energies can be either powerful agents of change or devastating agents of destruction. Left alone these energies are just energy. It is up to us what effect they will have when they collide through us.

Peace and Blessings. —***CM***—

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Press # Then 2

By Staff Writer: Jennifer Glover

Community?
...Reality Check

I have been labeled judgmental, preachy and even feministic. I don't mind! When I see and feel things are out of alignment, I must take a stand.

For the majority of my life I have heard the words unity, unite, unify. I remember hearing collective, cohesive, and community. What do these terms truly mean if they are not applied and practiced in our everyday lives? How do we as the descendants of Africa elevate the knowledge we have to another level? How can we as a people emerge if we are not on the same page? At times it seems we are determined not to unify.

For years there have been movements, leaders, and feminists fighting for our unity and freedoms. Today we have the freedom to select and dine in the restaurants we want. We have the freedom to use the restrooms we choose and drink from whatever water fountain we wish. We have the freedom to vote and make choices that are conducive to us. These things are in existence because of our togetherness. It's puzzling that we as African-American people are still so divided.

African Americans have a plethora of positive and negative examples to learn from. We have struggled far too long for appreciation, acceptance, empowerment, and community.

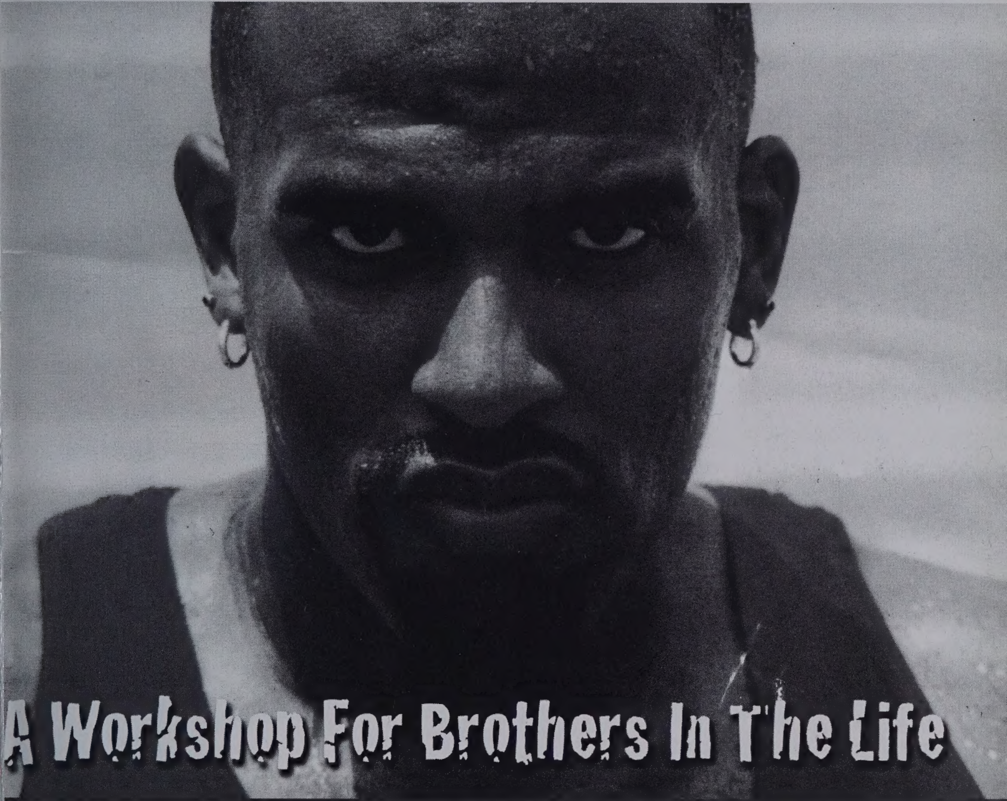
Our dividedness began long ago. Those who assumed power and authority over our people repetitively insulted our intelligence. Astute determination and energy was put forth to subdue, annihilate, and separate us as a people. They divided us systematically. Strategies were used, hoping we would self-destruct. They taught us to hate ourselves by turning us against one another. They eliminated our families. Continuously, our contributions to American society have been omitted. They removed our history. Our language was erased. Spiritual beliefs and cultural practices were replaced with theirs. Conscious efforts were put forth to destroy our spirits through incessant beatings and rapes. We were bled of our integrity and our pride taken. With all of this upon our shoulders, what's left is misplaced anger and hostility. For centuries, they have inflicted the poisons of generational genocide. It's time we rise above it.

Our displacement is perpetual. There are so many examples of division in the African American culture. Some blacks which have an economic or educational advantage look down on those that don't. There are certain organizations, movements, and religious groups that don't even acknowledge the existence of one another. They detest or disown all people that don't accept their beliefs. Often heterosexual males, batter and assault gay males; they undermine them. It is assumed gay black men are pathetic weaklings waiting to pounce! Blacks fight over gang territory, this hood against that hood. East Coast rappers are against West Coast rappers. The traditional Black family looks down on all that don't embrace their conservative stance. Being female you must learn to keep your mouth shut. You must sit and speak proper. You must know how to cook, clean, and take care of a family all so that you can get and keep a man!

Many Black churches across America have preached against black persons who are homosexual. The Church condemning gays to death with biblical interpretations. The Black Church, the traditional hierarchy assumed all people with HIV/AIDS are gay or lesbian. Some churches sat with folded arms;

Continues on Page 95

we go deep



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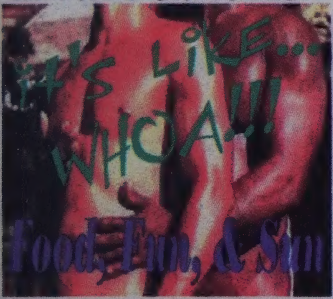
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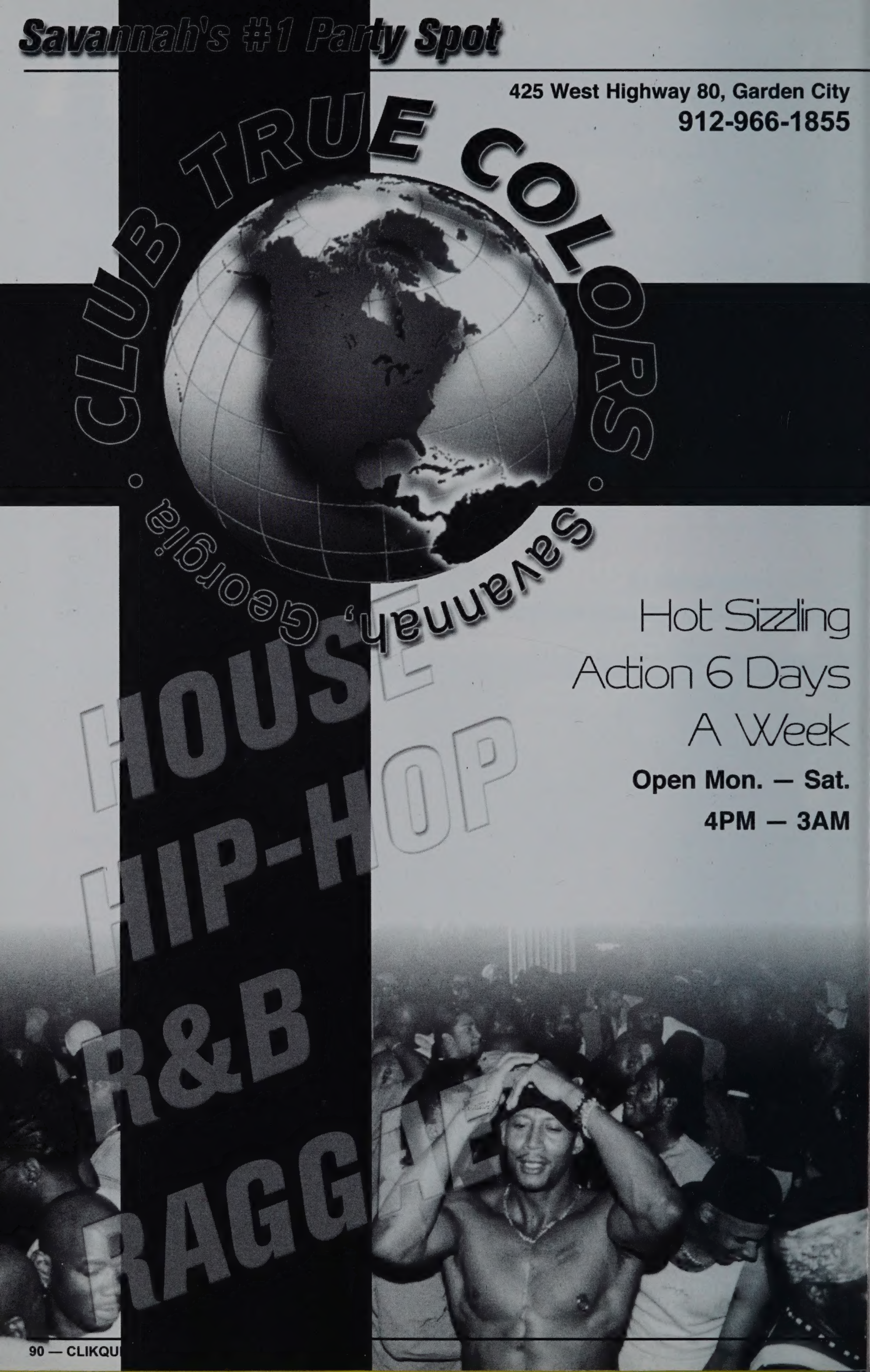

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Continued from page 66

"Yeah, dat's cool."

"So....what we gonna do when you get here?" asked Wes.

"Shit, I'm ready to freak yo. I'm down for whatever," said Silas, now smiling at how talented he was.

"No, tell me what we gonna do, Red." Silas got comfortable. He had played this game before and he was good at it. He leaned back and cleared his throat. He closed his eyes. This time he put an image of Craig in his head.

"Yo, Wes, I'm gonna put it like this, you ain't gonna be able to do anything without thinkin' bout my shit. When we get back to your place I'm gonna stick my tongue deep in your mouth, tasting every corner as I suck on your tongue between every lick. Then, I'm gonna make my way down to your nipples. You like that Wes?"

"Yeah, Red, yeah nigga."

"Then I'm gonna lick on each of those nipples, and bite them motha fuckas, yo, while I take my hands and grab that tight ass and pull you close to my hard dick. Then I'm gonna grind this hard dick into yours as I open up that ass with my fingers, get that shit ready. Then, I'm gonna lay you down on the bed and eat that ass. Then, just when you ready, I'm gonna slide this big dick in and fuck you like last time."

"That's what I'm talkin' about, boy. I'm on my way," Wes said as he hung up the phone. Silas sat there and started stroking his beautiful red dick. In his mind he was once again making love to Craig. He closed his eyes and started to moan and whisper Craig's name. He could feel Craig's warm ass wrapped around his dick. He could taste the mixture of cologne, lotion, and rain water on Craig's neck. He could feel Craig's warm, wet ass cheeks slapping against his toned, hard thighs and hanging balls.

"Yeah Craig, yeah nigga, yeah, baby....yeah," he moaned as he began to vigorously jack his dick. In seconds his legs were tensed and toes pointed as he began to shoot spurts of white fluids all over his jeans and his sheets. He laid back to catch his breath.

"Damn! Now I gotta change and fuckin shower again. Damn!" he said as he jumped up to take care of his business. Wes would be there soon.

****

When Craig slowly opened his eyes, he saw the bright lights of a hospital ceiling. He blinked and tried to focus on his surroundings. It was quiet except for all of the beeping machines that were connected to him. He looked to the left and saw monitors, wires, tubes, and a portrait of lilies in a field. He slowly turned his head. He got a little dizzy. So he stopped, closed his eyes, blinked and tried it again. He slowly turned to the right. His heart got heavy as he smiled. There, spread out with his arms folded was William, asleep. Craig just stared at him and watched him sleep. There was a powerful, beautiful, black man sitting in his hospital room. Craig thought about the first time that they ever embraced. He thought about how secure and safe he felt in William's arms, even though he was drunk. Then he remembered, William had said that he loved him. He smiled again as a tear rolled down his right cheek. Suddenly William began to stretch out and yawn. He was waking up.

"Oh, now you watching me sleep. What happened? I leave you for two minutes and I come back and you knocked out," he smiled as he got up to walk over to Craig. Craig just smiled and blinked to acknowledge William. William noticed the tear and silently wiped it away.

"Yeah, you scared the hell out of me, Craig. Don't do that shit again, aite?" Craig lightly knodded as he turned to face the ceiling again.

****

They had only been in the house for thirty minutes and they were already semi-naked. Silas stood there in some sexy navy boxer briefs and Wes in some black silk boxers. His muscular thighs were pressed against Silas' as their lips devoured each others. Wes' muscular chest pressed against Silas' toned body so deeply that they became one. Wes began to grind into Silas' body as he slowly squatted. His tongue made its way down Silas' entire body. His nose brushed through Silas' pubic hair. Soon, Silas' entire dick was in Wes' mouth. Silas closed his eyes and grabbed the back of Wes' head as he forced his entire shaft into his mouth.

"Yeah nigga. Suck that shit...Damn Wes...Damn, nigga...yeah...yeah...." Wes moaned as he closed his eyes and rolled his tongue around the head of Silas' dick. He then started to lick Silas between his thighs and around his balls. This drove Silas crazy. He was read to fuck. He grabbed Wes' head and pulled it back.

"Lay on the bed on your stomach," he forcefully said. Wes just smiled and stood up to remove his boxers. In seconds he felt Silas hands massaging his thighs. Soon they were on his ass. Then, just what he was waiting for, he felt Silas' wet, hot, firm tongue deep in his ass. He squirmed and moaned as Silas went deep and hard with his tongue.

"Can I fuck dat ass, Wes? Huh, can I fuck dat ass?" he whispered.

"Yeah, nigga fuck dat shit," Wes responded. In a matter of minutes, Silas was covered and lubed and fucking the hell out of Wes' hot, muscular ass. He was pounding the hell out of it. Their sweaty bodies slapped and slid forcefully against each other. They were going hard and fast! Wes was moaning and enjoying every minute of it. Suddenly Silas stopped.

"Shit, the condom broke!"

"Don't worry about it nigga, keep goin. Keep goin." Silas closed his eyes and slowly picked up his rhythm again. Soon, he was at full speed.

"I'm bout to cum, yo.... I'm bout to fuckin nut, yo!"

"Yeah, Red....Let me feel that shit. Go ahead, yeah, boy shoot that shit!" Before he could withdraw, he was shooting hot streams of cum deep into Wes ass. He wanted to pull out, he really did, but it was too late. It was too late.

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—CM—

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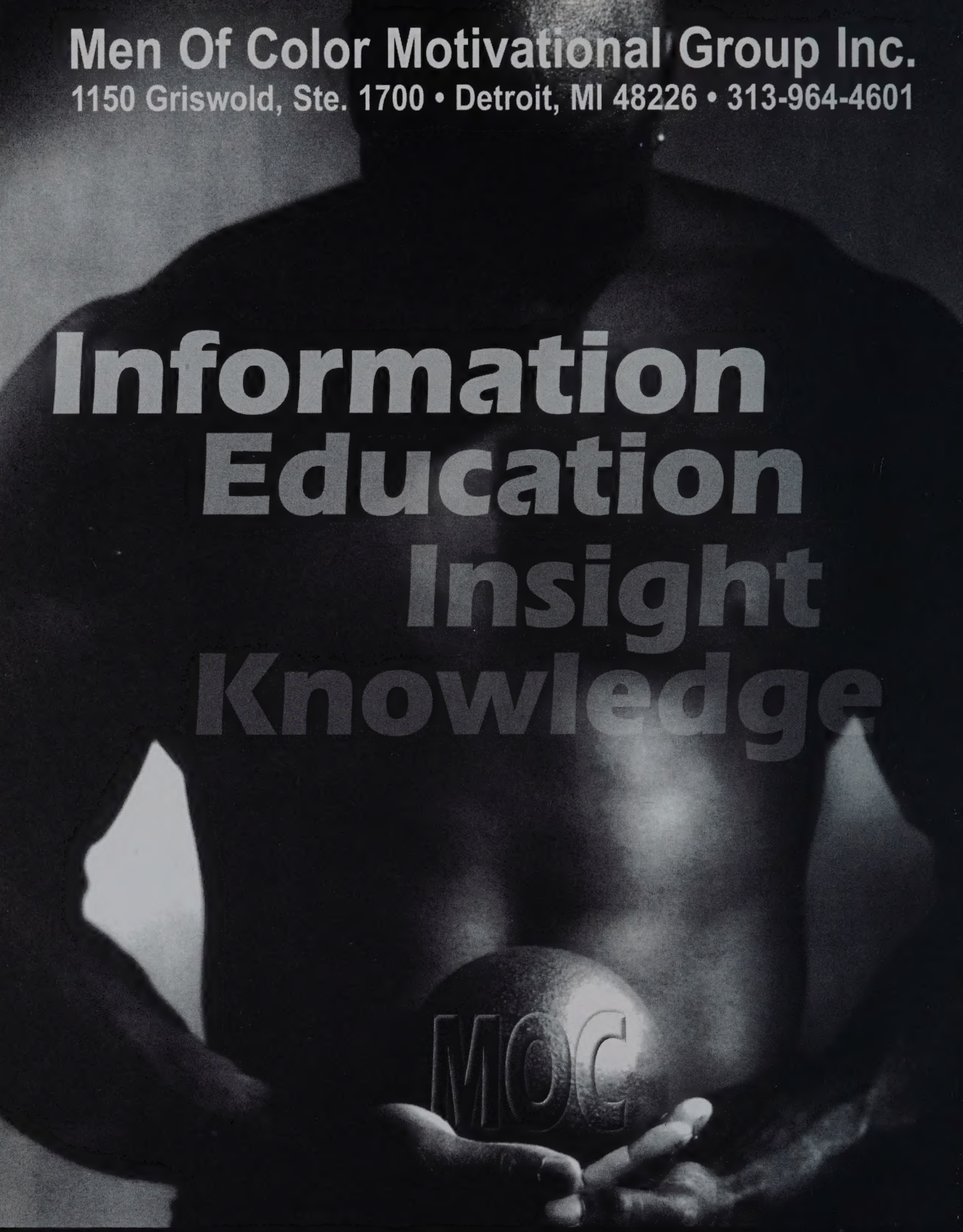

MEN OF COLOR MOTIVATIONAL GROUP INC. strives to empower African-American gay/bisexual/transgender men by providing information, education, insight, and knowledge on day to day issues in the African-American community. MOC advocates positive health strategies and non-biased information dissemination and education. Education and motivation of African-American men is our primary concern in order to bridge gaps of understanding and knowledge. We encourage openness, trust, and most of all mutual respect for one another.

Although the need of the African-American male is our primary focus, Men of Color welcome the participation of all community minded individuals. Our organization is equally aware of and sensitive to the needs of the community as a whole.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 86

acted as if it wasn't their problem instead of educating all. This dividedness has caused the virus to spread among heterosexuals. What are we going to do?

It is socially alarming that black lesbians are against black lesbians!!! Some black women who are lesbians stereotype their own. They judge them by their hair and style of dress! There are black lesbians that dislike others due to social or economic status. Some black lesbians ostracize others for dating out of their race; black lesbians often avoid those who associate with or date white women. There are black lesbians that alienate women who are bisexual. There have been black lesbians that turned their backs on others for having an opinion or fighting for what they believe in. Then there are lesbians of African American decent who exile and isolate non-feminine lesbians. How can this be?

As I talk with and befriend different types of African American lesbians, who may or may not be similar to me, I realize that there are underlying issues. There is favoritism, prejudice, class issues, and condemnation within the community.

Many factors separate black lesbians. In general, most are not comfortable with a black lesbian that is out. It is believed by many, to be masculine is to acknowledge to everyone I AM OUT. This sheds a spot light on those who are not. In some instances, it is accepted to stay away from the negative stigma of outness! It doesn't matter if you are feminine or masculine. The fact that you are OUT offends many.

This perpetuates and widens the separatism we are fighting to diminish. Dislike of ones own is very confusing to me. I may never truly understand. How can we find reasons to dislike someone who is fighting for the same rights and goals? How do we denounce the visions and beliefs that mirror our own? Why are we thriving on competition and envy? How can we live with prejudice and contempt instead of acceptance and freedom to love?

Has the magnitude of our collective oppression created a suicidal nation? There are so many unspoken circumstances affecting us as black people living in America. Tonight I have the blues and my heart is heavy. I have the blues because many are comfortable with this life of brother against brother and sister against sister. This journey has to begin somewhere. We are able to change all of this, the question is are we willing? *—**CM**—*

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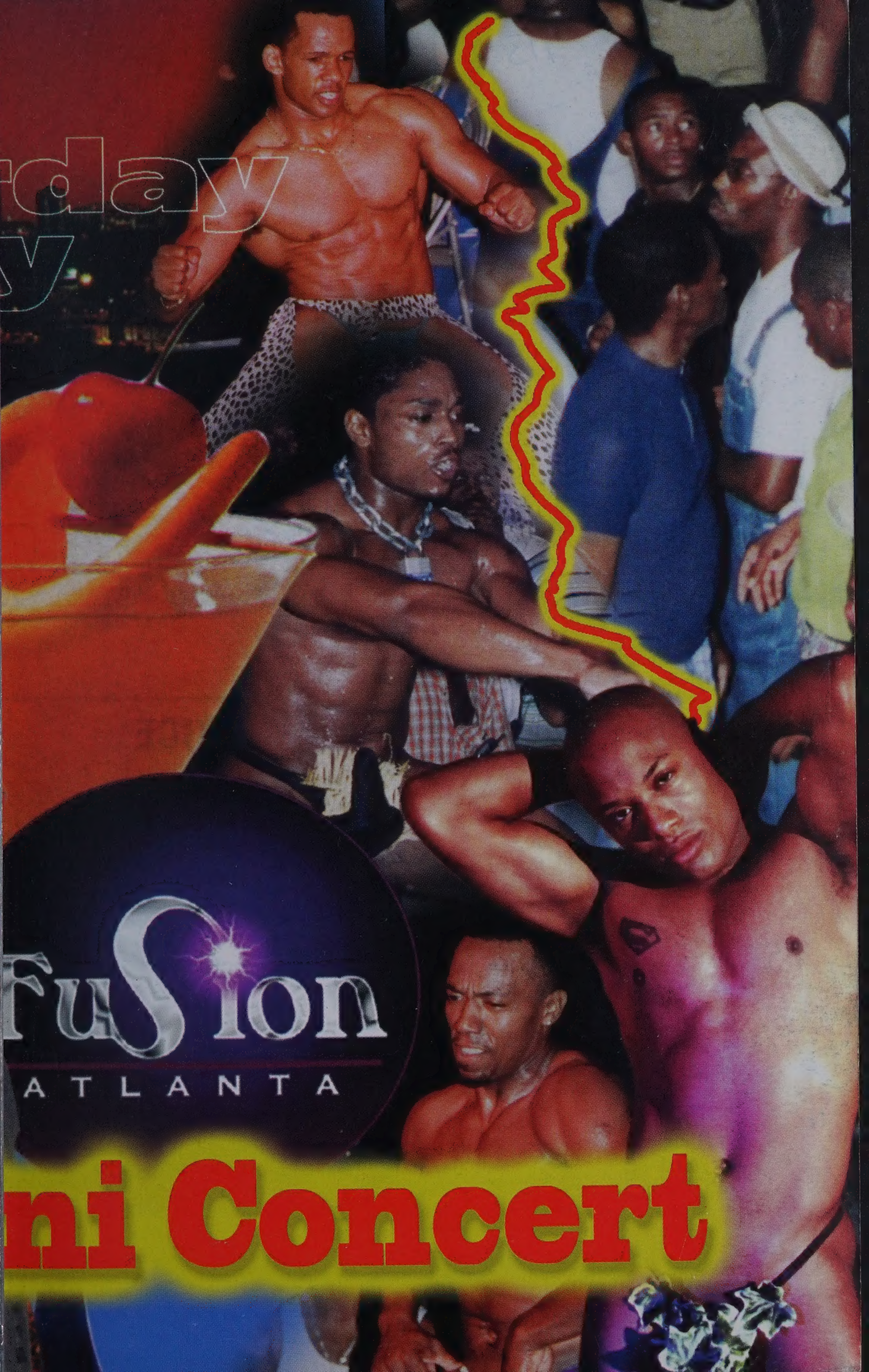
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